**10.1 Passive**

* We form the passive with the correct form of the verb *be* and the past participle.

This CD was released in 2006.

Foxes can be found in most cities in Britain.

* The tense of a passive construction is determined by the tense of the verb *be*.

Champagne is made in France. (present simple)

My watch has been stolen. (present perfect)

* We use the passive when we don’t know or don’t want to say who or what is responsible for the action.

My phone was made in China.

* We can also use the passive for stylistic reasons, especially to allow the main focus of the sentence to be the subject of the verb.

One of my favourite paintings is Van Gogh's Starry Night. It was painted in 1888.

* If we want to say who performed the action, we use an agent after the preposition *by.* If we include an agent, we usually put it at the end of the sentence.

Guernica was painted by Picasso.

**1 Rewrite the sentences using a passive verb. Include the agent if appropriate.**

1. The police arrested the robber in the city centre.
2. They are building a new hotel on the outskirts of town.
3. They will hold elections in July.
4. People never use this room for meetings.
5. The government has banned smoking in public places.
6. Somebody stole my mobile when I wasn’t looking.
7. We noticed that somebody had broken the window.
8. Somebody was following Harry home last night.

**10.2** **Passive: advanced structures**

**Passive with *know, believe, think,* etc.**

* Verbs like *know, believe* and *think* are often used in passive constructions, especially in formal language. We can use an impersonal construction with *it +* passive:

*it+* passive (present or past) + *that*...

It was believed by many people in the Middle Ages that the Sun went round the Earth.

It is now known that the Earth goes round the Sun.

* Alternatively we use a passive construction with an infinitive: subject + passive (present or past) *+ to do / to have done something*

The Sun was believed by many people to go round the Earth.

* If the sentence refers to a **present** belief about a **past** event, we use the present simple passive followed by a perfect infinitive (to *have done something).*

The prisoner is believed to have escaped through an open window.

**Verbs with two objects**

* With verbs that often have two objects *(give, offer, owe, pay, ask, show, award, tell, send, teach,* etc.), either object can become the subject of a passive sentence.

They sent me my exam results in the post.

1. I was sent my exam results in the post.
2. My exam results were sent to me in the post.
* It is more common for the indirect object (usually a person) to be the subject of the passive sentence (example *a* above).
1. **Rewrite the sentences in two ways using passive structures. Start with the words given.**
2. They say that he is very wealthy.

**a** It is said ... **b** He is said ...

1. They think that the robbers escaped in a car.

**a** It is ... **b** The robbers are ...

1. They believed that the Earth was flat.

**a** It... **b** The Earth ...

1. They now know that the driver was drunk.

**a** It... **b** The driver

1. They reported that two terrorists died in the attack.

**a** It... **b** Two terrorists ...

1. They expect that the government will raise taxes.

**a** It... **b** The government ...

1. **Rewrite the sentences using a passive construction. Start with the words given.**
2. They paid Harry a lot of money in his first job. Harry ...
3. They offered my dad early retirement. My dad ...
4. Has anyone ever given you a present you didn’t like? Have you...
5. Nobody told me that you were here. I...
6. They don’t teach us music at our school. Music...
7. They shouldn’t give Mary a prize. Mary...