

A I was offered ... / we were given ... etc.

Some verbs can have two objects. For example, give:

Somebody gave the police the information. (= Somebody gave the information to the police)
object 1 object 2

So it is possible to make two passive sentences:

The police were given the information. *or*
 The information was given to the police.

Other verbs which can have two objects are:

ask offer pay show teach tell

When we use these verbs in the passive, most often we begin with the *person*:

- I was offered the job, but I refused it. (= they offered me the job)
- You will be given plenty of time to decide. (= we will give you plenty of time)
- Have you been shown the new machine? (= has anybody shown you?)
- The men were paid £400 to do the work. (= somebody paid the men £400)

B I don't like being ...

The passive of doing/seeing etc. is being done / being seen etc. Compare:

active: I don't like people telling me what to do.

passive: I don't like being told what to do.

- I remember being taken to the zoo when I was a child.
 (= I remember somebody taking me to the zoo)
- Steve hates being kept waiting. (= he hates people keeping him waiting)
- We managed to climb over the wall without being seen. (= without anybody seeing us)

C I was born ...

We say 'I was born ...' (*not* I am born):

- I was born in Chicago.
- Where were you born? (*not* Where are you born?) } *past*

but

- How many babies are born every day? } *present*

D Get

You can use get instead of be in the passive:

- There was a fight at the party, but nobody got hurt. (= nobody was hurt)
- I don't often get invited to parties. (= I'm not often invited)
- I'm surprised Liz didn't get offered the job. (= Liz wasn't offered the job)

You can use get only when things *happen*. For example, you cannot use get in the following sentences:

- Jill is liked by everybody. (*not* gets liked – this is not a 'happening')
- He was a mystery man. Very little was known about him. (*not* got known)

We use get mainly in informal spoken English. You can use be in all situations.

We also use get in the following expressions (which are not passive in meaning):

- get married, get divorced get lost (= not know where you are)
- get dressed (= put on your clothes) get changed (= change your clothes)

44.1 Write these sentences in another way, beginning in the way shown.

- 1 They didn't give me the information I needed.
 I wasn't given the information I needed.
- 2 They asked me some difficult questions at the interview.
 I _____
- 3 Linda's colleagues gave her a present when she retired.
 Linda _____
- 4 Nobody told me about the meeting.
 I wasn't _____
- 5 How much will they pay you for your work?
 How much will you _____
- 6 I think they should have offered Tom the job.
 I think Tom _____
- 7 Has anybody shown you what to do?
 Have you _____

44.2 Complete the sentences using being + the following (in the correct form):

- give invite ~~keep~~ knock down stick treat
- 1 Steve hates being kept waiting.
 - 2 We went to the party without _____.
 - 3 I like giving presents and I also like _____ them.
 - 4 It's a busy road and I don't like crossing it. I'm afraid of _____.
 - 5 I'm an adult. I don't like _____ like a child.
 - 6 You can't do anything about _____ in a traffic jam.

44.3 When were they born? Choose five of these people and write a sentence for each. (Two of them were born in the same year.)

Beethoven	Galileo	Elvis Presley	1452	1869	1929
Agatha Christie	Mahatma Gandhi	Leonardo da Vinci	1564	1890	1935
Walt Disney	Martin Luther King	William Shakespeare	1770	1901	

- 1 Walt Disney was born in 1901.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 And you? I _____

44.4 Complete the sentences using get/got + the following verbs (in the correct form):

- ask damage ~~hurt~~ pay steal sting stop use
- 1 There was a fight at the party, but nobody got hurt.
 - 2 Alex _____ by a bee while he was sitting in the garden.
 - 3 These tennis courts don't _____ very often. Not many people want to play.
 - 4 I used to have a bicycle, but it _____ a few months ago.
 - 5 Rachel works hard but doesn't _____ very much.
 - 6 Last night I _____ by the police as I was driving home. One of the lights on my car wasn't working.
 - 7 Please pack these things very carefully. I don't want them to _____.
 - 8 People often want to know what my job is. I often _____ that question.