

## USE OF ENGLISH - PASSIVES: complex sentences

Before we focus on more complex sentences let's refresh our memories by completing this text.

I'll never forget my first day at that office. I \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) to arrive at 8:30, but when I got there the whole place seemed to be empty. I didn't know what to do because I \_\_\_\_\_ (give) no information about the building or where I was going to work, so I just waited around until some of the secretaries began to turn up. Finally I \_\_\_\_\_ (show) a dirty little office on the fifth floor, where I \_\_\_\_\_ (give) a desk in a corner. Nothing happened for an hour, then I \_\_\_\_\_ (give) some letters to type on a computer by one of the senior secretaries. This wasn't very successful because I \_\_\_\_\_ (never/teach) how to use a computer. (In the letter I \_\_\_\_\_ (send) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (offer) the job, I \_\_\_\_\_ (promise) computer training, but they'd obviously forgotten about this.) By lunchtime things hadn't got any better, and I decided that \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) to put up with this nonsense, so I walked out and didn't go back.

how English works

A. \_\_\_\_\_

**Active object complement € passive subject complement**

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
They elected Mrs Robins President.	Mrs Robins was elected President.
The others call him stupid.	He is called stupid by the others.
You've made me very happy.	I have been made very happy.

B. **Structure with introductory it: It is thought/believed/reported/acknowledged ... that...**

It is thought that the Minister will resign.

It is believed that the IMF will intervene sooner or later.

It is expected that economic growth will slow down.

C. **Subject + passive verb + infinitive: ...is thought/believed/said/asked/seen/made ... to ...**

She is thought to have left home.

He is believed to be in Tokyo.

They are said to be millionaires.

I was asked to help.

D. **Structure with there is: There is thought/said to be ...**

There are thought to be fewer than twenty people still living in the village.

There were said to be over 100 winners

**Make these sentences passive, using one of the above structures.**

1. The Minister of Finance is to resign.
2. We agreed to postpone the meeting.
3. The villagers called her a witch.
4. People believed that fresh air was bad for sick people.
5. Some people say that there are wolves in the mountains.
6. Police think the man holding the hostages is heavily armed.
7. They say prices are going to rise sharply.
8. Everybody considered her very intelligent.
9. We expect that the rate of inflation will rise.
10. They say he is somewhere in Germany.
11. Somebody saw Harris leave the plane in Ontario.
12. People think that she died in a plane crash.
13. People believed that the earth was the centre of the universe.
14. They think that there is oil off the Portuguese coast.
15. They made me give them details of the country's financial situation.