

## 3.2 The passive voice

In English, the passive is formed using the verb *to be* in the relevant tense plus the past participle. When using the passive, focus is placed on the action rather than the person who carried out the action. However, if it is necessary to mention the person, *by* is used, e.g. *The 'Mona Lisa' **was painted by** Leonardo Da Vinci.* Below are some examples of the passive voice:

### Present simple and progressive:

*Breakfast **is included** in the price of an overnight stay.*

*Tickets for the open-air festival **are being sold** through the event website.*

### Past simple and progressive:

*The stolen jewels **were found** in the thief's car.*

*The thief managed to escape while he **was being taken** to the police station.*

### Perfect tenses:

***Has Tina been invited** to the party?*

*By the end of the month, her song **had been downloaded** more than 50,000 times.*

### Future forms:

*Your personal information **won't be made** public unless you tick this box.*

*His blog **is going to be published** as a book later this year.*

*If we don't hurry up, all of the nice food **will have been eaten** by the time we get there!*

### The passive with modal verbs:

*Mobile phones **cannot be taken** into the examination room.*

*Why didn't you lock your bike? It **could have been stolen!***

*Bags **should not be left** unattended at any time.*

*The pictures **must have been posted** straight after the party, but we don't know who took them.*

Note: the perfect progressive forms are not used in the passive voice.

The progressive form of the future perfect is also not used in the passive voice.

Modal verbs include *can, could, would, might, may, should, ought, must.*

#### Passiv-Konstruktionen

Das Passiv wird verwendet, wenn entweder die Handlung selbst oder das Objekt des Satzes im Vordergrund stehen und weniger die ausführende Kraft, also das Subjekt.

Bildung: Objekt + *to be* (in der entsprechenden Zeitform) + *past participle* (Verb mit *-ed/ 3. Form*)

Soll die ausführende Kraft doch erwähnt werden, kann dies mithilfe des „by-agent“ geschehen: *The Mona Lisa **was painted by** Leonardo Da Vinci.*

### 3.3 Conditional sentences

Consisting of two clauses, conditional sentences are used when we talk about what happens, or could happen, or could have happened in certain situations, depending on which tenses are used. Although conditional sentences are often referred to as “if clauses”, other words can also be used to link conditional clauses, such as *when*, *unless*, *until*, *even if*, or *as long as*.

- ⦿ The **zero conditional** is used to talk about things that always happen in a given situation. The **present simple** is used in both clauses:  
*When it **is** winter in Britain, it **is** summer in South Africa.*  
*If you **click** here, you **can** download photos.*
- ⦿ The **first conditional** is used to talk about things that are likely to happen. Use **will/won't** in the main clause and a **present** tense in the subordinate clause:  
*I'll **go swimming** after work if I **have** time.*  
*Unless you **work** harder, you **won't finish** your essay on time.*
- ⦿ The **second conditional** is used to talk about things that are impossible, or that are very unlikely to happen. **Would/wouldn't + present** is used in the main clause and the **past simple/progressive** is used in the subordinate clause. Note, however, that the second conditional refers to future time:  
*My father **would go** crazy if he **found out** what really happened last weekend!*  
*I don't trust Brian. If I **were** you, I **wouldn't give** him your phone number.*
- ⦿ The **third conditional** is used to talk about past situations that did not happen, although they were possible, or something that should not have happened, but did. Use **would/wouldn't have + past participle** in the main clause and the **past perfect** in the subordinate clause.  
*He **would have become** the new world champion if he **had won** the race.*  
*If I **hadn't forgotten** to put petrol in the car, it **wouldn't have broken down**.*
- ⦿ **Modal verbs** can also be used in the main clause of a conditional sentence instead of will or would:  
*You **could get** a better job if you **spoke** a foreign language.*  
*If they **hadn't repaired** that fence, somebody **might have been injured**.*  
***Let** me know if you can **come** to the cinema with us.*

In conditional sentences, *will* or *would* are not used in the *if-clause*.

*If I were you* is a standard phrase often used to give someone advice or tell them your opinion. The combination of *I* and *were* may seem strange, but it is perfectly correct. In other examples, either *If I were rich ...* or *If I was rich ...* is correct.