



# Passive Voice...

## ...with 2 Objects – Basic Rules

Remember:   
 Subject      Verb      Indirect Object      Direct Object  
 ☺      He always gives his students a checklist.

a) A checklist is always given to his students.

b) His students are always given a checklist.

→ The auxiliary verb **Be** is always in the same tense as the verb in the active voice and the main verb is always in the Past Participle. A **by-phrase**, the agent, can be used when we know who or what performed the action.



**C.** Rewrite each sentence in the Passive, using the ... at the beginning of the sentence.

a) Direct object      b) Indirect object

**A.** Match the two halves of the sentences.

- |                   |                          |                        |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A note         | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) an email            |
| 2. I was handed   | <input type="checkbox"/> | b) were told to me.    |
| 3. I was sent     | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) some money.         |
| 4. An email       | <input type="checkbox"/> | d) was handed to me.   |
| 5. I was told     | <input type="checkbox"/> | e) English by Mr Lowe. |
| 6. A lot of lies  | <input type="checkbox"/> | f) was lent to me.     |
| 7. Some money     | <input type="checkbox"/> | g) a note.             |
| 8. I was lent     | <input type="checkbox"/> | h) was sent to me.     |
| 9. English        | <input type="checkbox"/> | i) is taught to us.    |
| 10. We are taught | <input type="checkbox"/> | j) a lot of lies.      |

**B.** Rewrite each sentence using the Indirect Object as subject.

1. They didn't tell us anything about it.

2. Anna wrote me a letter.

3. Her mother brought her a piece of cake.

4. My sister looks after the baby when I go shopping.

1. He owes me \$50.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

2. They usually read a short story to their children before bedtime.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. The teacher asked the students a very easy question.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

4. They showed me their new car.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

5. They offered her a job.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

6. They didn't tell her the truth.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

7. The headteacher promised us a full explanation.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_



## KEY

- |                   |   |                        |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. A note         | d | a) an email            |
| 2. I was handed   | g | b) were told to me.    |
| 3. I was sent     | a | c) some money.         |
| 4. An email       | h | d) was handed to me.   |
| 5. I was told     | j | e) English by Mr Lowe. |
| 6. A lot of lies  | b | f) was lent to me.     |
| 7. Some money     | f | g) a note.             |
| 8. I was lent     | c | h) was sent to me.     |
| 9. English        | i | i) is taught to us.    |
| 10. We are taught | e | j) a lot of lies.      |

1. They didn't tell us anything about it.  
We weren't told anything about it.
2. Anna wrote me a letter.  
I was written a letter by Anna
3. Her mother brought her a piece of cake.  
She was brought a piece of cake by her mother
4. My sister looks after the baby when I go shopping.  
The baby is looked after by my sister when I go out.

1. He owes me \$50.  
**a) \$50 is owed to me.**  
**b) I'm owed \$50.**
2. They usually read a short story to their children before bedtime.  
**a) A short story is usually read to the children before bedtime.**  
**b) The children are usually read a short story before bedtime.**
3. The teacher asked the students a very easy question.  
**a) A very easy question was asked to the students.**  
**b) The students were asked a very easy question.**
4. They showed me their new car.  
**a) Their new car was shown to me.**  
**b) I was shown their new car.**
5. They offered her a job.  
**a) A job was offered to her.**  
**b) She was offered a job.**
6. They didn't tell her the truth.  
**a) The truth wasn't told to her.**  
**b) She wasn't told the truth.**
7. The headteacher promised us a full explanation.  
**a) A full explanation was promised to us by the headteacher..**  
**b) we were promised a full explanation by the headteacher.**