

Advanced passive

English Grammar · B2

Passive Voice in Various Tenses

Passive across tenses

present	perfect	future
is / are + p.p.	has been + p.p.	will be + p.p.
<i>is made</i>	<i>has been built</i>	<i>will be opened</i>

Passive across tenses: reference card grid

The passive voice can be used in **any tense**—simply change the form of **be**, which is always followed by a **past participle**.

Tense	Passive Structure
Present Simple	am / is / are + past participle
Past Simple	was / were + past participle
Present Perfect	has / have been + past participle
Future	will be + past participle
Modal	can / must be + past participle

The bridge has been repaired.

This bridge has already been repaired. (Present Perfect Passive)

The work will be done soon.

The work will soon be completed. (Future Passive)

Note: Regardless of the tense, the core of the passive structure is always **be (changing) + past participle (unchanged)**.

Reported Speech (it is said that...)

When reporting **general opinions or rumors** without specifying who said it, we often use the **passive reporting** structure:

- **It is said / believed / thought that** + clause.
- **Subject + is said / believed to** + infinitive / base verb.

It is said that he is very rich.

He is said to be very rich.

He is said to be very rich.

It is said that he is very rich. (Same meaning, subject moved forward)

Note: Such structures are common in news and formal writing, allowing for objective reporting of unverified information.

Common Errors

- × ~~The bridge has repaired.~~ → ✓ The bridge **has been repaired**. — In the perfect passive, *been* is easily omitted; without *been*, it means “the bridge repaired something else”.
- × ~~The problem must be solve.~~ → ✓ The problem must be **solved**. — Modal passive = modal verb + be + past participle.
- × ~~He is said that he is rich.~~ → ✓ **It is said that** he is rich. / He **is said to be** rich. — The two “said” structures cannot be combined.
- Additional: There is also a continuous passive — am / is / are **being** + past participle: *The road **is being repaired**.* (*The road is currently being repaired.*)