PASSIVE VOICE – 3º ESO

►The **PASSIVE** is formed by using the appropriate tense of the verb **TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE**.

FORM

	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
Present Simple	They serve dinner at 6.00	Dinner is served at 6.00
Past Simple	They served dinner.	Dinner was served.
Future Simple	They will serve dinner.	Dinner will be served.
Modals +be+ p.p.	You must serve dinner.	Dinner must be served.

Note: GET is used in colloquial English instead of BE to express something happening by accident.
"He got hurt last Monday." (more usual than: "He was hurt last Monday.)

USE

When the agent (=person who does the action) is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.	The door had been locked. (We don't know who locked it)
When we are interested more in the action than the agent, such as in news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements, etc.	The whole area was evacuated. (news report) Breakfast is served from 6.00 to 10.30. (formal notice)
To put emphasis on the AGENT.	The Pyramids were built by the ancient Egyptians.

CHANGING FROM ACTIVE INTO PASSIVE

	SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT	AGENT
ACTIVE	*The mayor*	*opened*	*the new school.*	
PASSIVE	*The new school*	*was opened*		*by the mayor.*

In the passive we use **BY + AGENT** to say who or what did the action.	She was hit on the head **by the burglar.**
We use **WITH + INSTRUMENT or MATERIAL** to say what the agent used.	She was hit on the head by the burglar **with a piece of wood.**
With verbs that take **two objects**, it is more usual to begin the passive sentence with the person.	They offered **Ann** **a job.** -**Ann** was offered a job. (more usual.) - **A job** was offered to Ann.
We put the agent in the passive only if it adds information. When the agent is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context, it is omitted. Agents such as someone, people, I, you, etc. are omitted.	**King Lear** was written by Shakespeare. (=It adds information.) **Somebody** helped him. -He was helped (by sb) (unknown agent; it can be omitted.)