

## A Context listening

1 You are going to hear a radio news bulletin. Before you listen, look at the pictures and decide what happened. Put the pictures in the correct order.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_



2 21 Listen and check if you were right.

3 21 Read this article from a news website. Then listen again and fill in the gaps. Stop the recording when you need to.

### Burglars' 'luck' was well planned

FOUR BURGLARS have escaped from custody only hours after (1) being sentenced to ten years in prison. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ transferred from the law courts in Manchester to Strangeways Prison. They (3) \_\_\_\_\_ found guilty of stealing electrical goods and money from shops in the Manchester area. It (4) \_\_\_\_\_ thought that they were all members of the same gang. They escaped from the van in which they (5) \_\_\_\_\_ transported, when the driver (6) \_\_\_\_\_ forced to stop because of a tree across the road. It (7) \_\_\_\_\_ believed that the tree (8) \_\_\_\_\_ placed there by other members of the gang, who (9) \_\_\_\_\_ informed of the route (10) \_\_\_\_\_ taken by the van. A full investigation of the events leading to the escape (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ordered and anyone with information (12) \_\_\_\_\_ asked to contact the police to help with their inquiries.

4 How many of the verbs that you completed in Exercise 3 are in the passive? \_\_\_\_\_

## B Grammar

### 1 The passive

#### How the passive is formed

We form the passive by using the verb *to be* followed by the past participle:

#### Active:

*The police officer saw the robber at the airport.*

*She's following him.*

*She'll catch him soon.*

#### Passive:

*The robber was seen at the airport.*

*He's being followed.*

*He'll be caught soon.*



Active		Passive
to catch	→	to be caught
to have caught	→	to have been caught
catching	→	being caught
having caught	→	having been caught
catch(es)	→	am/are/is caught
am/are/is catching	→	am/are/is being caught
will catch	→	will be caught
am/are/is going to catch	→	am/are/is going to be caught
has/have caught	→	has/have been caught
caught	→	was/were caught
was catching	→	was being caught
had caught	→	had been caught
would catch	→	would be caught
would have caught	→	would have been caught

#### When the passive is used

The passive is used quite often in English, both in speech and writing. We use the passive when:

- we don't know who or what did something:  
*My phone has been stolen.* (= Someone has stolen my phone.)  
*The first tools were made in Africa two million years ago.* (= People made the first tools ...)
- the action is more important than who did it:  
*Income tax was introduced in England in 1798.*
- it is obvious who or what did something:  
*The thief has been arrested.*

We can use *by* + person/thing to show who/what did the action if this information is important:

*The robber was seen by the police officer.* (= The police officer saw the robber.)

### Verbs with two objects

Some verbs (e.g. *give, send, buy, bring*) can have two objects:

Active: *A witness gave the police some information.*

*A witness gave some information to the police.*

*Lots of fans sent the footballer birthday cards.*

*Lots of fans sent birthday cards to the footballer.*

Either of the objects can be the subject of a passive sentence:

Passive: *The police were given some information by a witness.*

*Some information was given to the police by a witness.*

*The footballer was sent birthday cards by lots of fans.*

*Birthday cards were sent to the footballer by lots of fans.*

## 2 to have/get something done

When we ask someone else to do something for us, we often use the structure *to have something done*.

It is not usually necessary to say who did the action:

*The president had his speeches written (by his staff).* (= The president's staff wrote his speeches.)

*I had my hair cut.* (= The hairdresser cut my hair.)

*I'm having my kitchen painted.* (= The decorator is painting my kitchen.)

*They want to have their car fixed.* (= They want the garage to fix their car.)

In informal speech, we often use *get* instead of *have*:

*I got my hair cut.* (= I had my hair cut.)

*When are you getting that window repaired?*

*We need to get something done about this leak in the roof.*

## 3 It is said that ...

We often use *it* + passive + *that* when we report what people in general say or believe:

*It is believed that the tree was placed there by other members of the gang.* (= Everyone believes that ...)

We can use a number of verbs in this pattern, e.g. *agree, announce, believe, decide, report, say, think*:

*It's (is) said that a famous singer used to live in this house.* (= People say that ...)

*It was agreed that the theatre must be closed.* (= The theatre's owners agreed that ...)

*It's (is) reported that the damage will cost millions of pounds to repair.* (= The news media report that ...)

*It's (has) been announced that a new road will be built along the river.* (= The council has announced ...)

*Until the 16th century it was thought that the sun revolved around the Earth.* (= People generally thought that ...)

## C Grammar exercises

### 1 Choose the correct words.

- The children wanted to *be* / *been* allowed to stay up late and see the fireworks.
- Our flight was *delaying* / *delayed* by fog and we missed our connection.
- Lauren was sulking because she *wasn't* / *hadn't been* invited to Ralph's party.
- By the time we arrived at the market, the best fruit *had be* / *had been* sold.
- While the meal was *being* / *been* prepared, we had a drink on the terrace.
- The new library will be *open* / *opened* by the Mayor next Saturday.
- The rock star was sent a chocolate cake *by* / *of* one of his fans.

### 2 Fill in the gaps with the passive form of the verbs.

- A government minister was found (*find*) guilty of fraud yesterday.
- It was a lovely surprise to find that all the washing-up was done (*do*) while I was asleep.
- These souvenirs were made (*make*) by children from the local school in their last summer holidays.
- Wait for me! I don't want to be left (*leave*) on my own!
- It was said (*say*) that the Prime Minister's husband plays the piano quite well.
- The votes are counted (*count*) right now and we should know the result before midnight.
- As he was sacked (*sack*) from his previous job, he found it hard to get another.
- In the past, it was thought (*think*) that the population of the world would always increase but now it is agreed (*agree*) that this may not be true.
- The judges still have to decide which design will be awarded (*award*) the top prize.
- This parcel appears to have been opened (*open*) before it is delivered (*deliver*).

### 3 Match the two halves of the conversations and fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 I thought those chairs were broken.    | A I <u>have them mended</u> ( <i>have / colour</i> ).                           |
| 2 Your bike's got a flat tyre!           | B Yes, you need to <u>get it fixed</u> ( <i>have / take in</i> ).               |
| 3 This carpet's filthy.                  | C I can <u>have it cleaned</u> ( <i>get / fix</i> ) at the cycle shop.          |
| 4 What's happened to your hair?          | D Yes, we should <u>have it redecorated</u> ( <i>have / redecorate</i> ).       |
| 5 I don't like this room. It's too dark. | E I've <u>had them mended</u> ( <i>have / mend</i> ).                           |
| 6 These trousers are much too loose.     | F We <u>should have them checked</u> ( <i>have / check</i> ) before we go away. |
| 7 What a beautiful garden!               | G We must <u>get it cleaned</u> ( <i>get / clean</i> ).                         |
| 8 Why is your car at the garage?         | H Thanks! We <u>had it designed</u> ( <i>have / design</i> ) by an expert.      |

4 Read this report in the *Cybernian News*.

www.cybernian\_news.com

HOME NEWS ENTERTAINMENT SPORT BUSINESS  
VIDEO REPORT WEATHER GOING OUT TV GUIDE

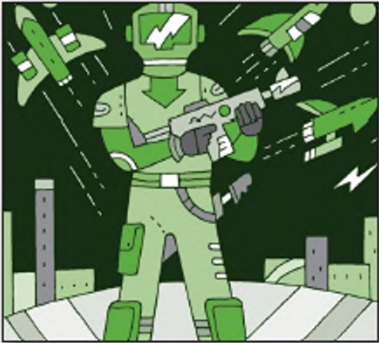
## CYBERNIAN NEWS

22 October 3008

### Victory for Cybernia!

**The victorious Cybernian Inter-galactic Forces report:**

Yesterday we invaded Planet Upstart with a large force. We have completely crushed the year-old rebellion there. Our space ships have destroyed ninety per cent of the Upstart space fleet. A special Cybernian task force landed near the central communications building and captured it without difficulty. Our spokesperson immediately broadcast a message to the population. We announced that we had liberated them from the illegal Upstart government and we asked them to cooperate with the new government of their planet. We have arrested the rebel leaders and we are taking them back to Cybernia where the government will put them on trial.



Complete the report below so it matches the report in the *Cybernian News*. Use the passive form of the verbs.

## UPSTART NEWS...22 OCTOBER 3008...

## Defeat for Upstarts

Yesterday our planet (1) was invaded (*invade*) by a large force from Cybernia. Our year-old rebellion (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (*crush*).

Ninety per cent of our space fleet (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (*destroy*). The central communications building (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (*capture*) without difficulty by a special Cybernian task force and a message (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (*broadcast*). It (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (*announce*) that we (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (*liberate*), and we (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (*ask*) to cooperate with our new government. Our leaders (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (*arrest*) and they (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (*take*) to Cybernia where it (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (*claim*) that they (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (*put*) on trial.

## 5 Correct the mistake in each of the following sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- The mark on the ceiling ~~was appeared~~ last week. appeared
- He escaped without having being recognised by anyone. \_\_\_\_\_
- A shopping mall was been built in the town centre about 20 years ago. \_\_\_\_\_
- Most of the problems was happened when we arrived at the hotel. \_\_\_\_\_
- Yesterday I went to your barber's shop to cut my hair and I was very disappointed. \_\_\_\_\_
- I can get my computer fixing at the shop next to the bank. \_\_\_\_\_

# Exam practice

## Reading and Use of English Part 4

For questions 1–6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

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- 0 My grandfather hasn't spoken to me since Sunday.

**SPOKE**

My grandfather last spoke to me on Sunday.

- 1 The students gave a concert after their exams.

**WAS**

A concert \_\_\_\_\_ students after their exams.

- 2 My computer needs to be repaired before the weekend.

**HAVE**

I must \_\_\_\_\_ before the weekend.

- 3 We heard reports last week that the dictator had fled the country.

**IT**

Last week \_\_\_\_\_ the dictator had fled the country.

- 4 No one gave my message to the shop manager.

**NOT**

My message \_\_\_\_\_ the shop manager.

- 5 The teacher said Simon had cheated.

**ACCUSED**

Simon \_\_\_\_\_ his teacher.

- 6 The address the tourist office gave us for the hotel was wrong so we got lost.

**RIGHT**

We \_\_\_\_\_ address for the hotel by the tourist office so we got lost.