



PUC SPEL Online is a web-based English language tutoring system developed by PUC to help you improve your English vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. You can access the online courses from your own computer with an internet connection and at any time you are available. The course provides convenience and flexibility for you to practice your English independently outside of your classrooms with the support of online tutors.

<https://pucspel.online>
✉ spelonline@puc.edu.kh
📍 PUC South Campus

Grammar Reference

1. Construction of the passive

The passive exists in every tense. The **passive voice** is formed as follows:

- **be** (conjugated) + **past participle**

'**By**' is used to introduce the person or the object that **does the action**.

Example:

A worm **is being eaten by** the bird.

(Active sentence: The bird **is eating** a worm.)

The church **was built in** 1654.

(Active sentence: People built the church in 1654.)

My brother **is punished by** the teacher.

(Active sentence: The teacher **punishes** my brother.)

- **get** + **past participle**

'**Get**' is used to express:

- the **passage** from one state of being to another.

Example:

They'll **get married** in two months.

- an idea of some **effort** being undertaken.

Example:

We'll try to **get** ourselves **invited**.

2. Use of the passive

The **passive** is used to describe an event **happening to the subject**.

- The passive verb can be followed by an **agent** introduced by 'by'. This is, in fact, the subject of the active sentence.

Example:

The thief **was caught by** the police.

(Active sentence: The police caught the thief.)

- Some verbs in the passive are **never** followed by an agent, such as **to be born** and **to be left**.

Note. The **subject** of the **passive sentence** is in general the **direct** object in the active sentence.

Example:

Passive sentence: **The painting was signed** by Dalí.

(Active sentence: Dalí **signed the painting**.)

However, the **indirect** object of an active sentence can also become the **subject** in the **passive**.

Example:

Passive sentence: **She was told** the truth.

(Active sentence: Somebody **told her** the truth.)

- The **agent** introduced by 'by' can be an **indirect interrogative** (or exclamatory) **clause**.

Example:

I'm **amazed by** how clever you are.
agent

3. Construction of the present conditional

- The **present conditional** is formed with:

would + infinitive without to

Would is invariable. It is shortened to **'d**.

Example:

It **would be** more difficult if you explained it this way.

I **'d like** to go on holiday.

- In the **negative form**, **would** and **not** are usually shortened to **wouldn't**.

Example:

We **wouldn't go** sailing in such weather conditions.

- The **present conditional** is used to talk about **theoretical situations** or **actions**. You may use this form when you wish to talk about what **could be** or **could happen**. Compare the **theoretical** and **real** situations in the **examples** below.

Example:

It **would** be a mistake to cut the budget.

(**theoretical action**)

It's a mistake to cut the budget.

(**real present action**)

We **would** improve our company's performance. (**theoretical situation**)

We are improving our company's performance. (**real present situation**)