

Passives

Verbs followed by
gerunds or infinitives

Japanese fans wave rubbish bags before cleaning up after a World Cup game.

Passives: Describing actions and processes

We use the **passive voice**:

- to emphasise the action rather than the person who did it (the agent).

*Plastic bottles **are polluting** the planet.*

- when we don't know who is doing the action.

*Billions of plastic bottles **are produced** every year.*

- when it is easy to understand who is doing the action.

*The issue **is highlighted** in Jack Johnson's music.*

The passive voice is formed with *be* + past participle.

*What **has been done** ...?*

*Sustainability **is being promoted** ...*

*The ideas **will be passed** on ...*

The negative is formed by putting the word *not* after the auxiliary verb.

*The majority of plastic bottles **are not recycled** at all.*

➔ See irregular verbs list on page 52.

1 Rewrite the active sentences as passive sentences.

Example: *People have bought too many plastic bottles. (buy)*

Too many plastic bottles have been bought.

1. They don't sell plastic bottles at Jack Johnson concerts. (sell)

2. This will encourage fans to bring reusable water bottles to the concerts. (encourage)

3. Manufacturers produce billions of bottles a year. (produce)

4. We have used too much plastic. (use)

5. We don't recycle most of our plastic water bottles. (recycle)

6. Plastic waste is harming animals. (harm)

2 Complete the sentences with *is, isn't, should, shouldn't, will or won't*.

Example: *A lot of plastic **isn't** manufactured in the country where it is sold. ✗*

1. Most bottles you use once _____ be recycled. ✗
2. Instead, they _____ be thrown into landfill. ✓
3. Many _____ be diverted to the ocean. ✓
4. Plastic _____ found in the marine food chain. ✓
5. It _____ digested by marine animals. ✗
6. Food _____ gradually replaced by plastic in the stomachs of seabirds. ✓
7. If we have to use it, all plastic _____ be separated and recycled. ✓
8. It _____ just be thrown away in the hope that it won't harm the environment. ✗

3 Rewrite the sentences with a passive verb.

Example: *People have used plastic for many purposes over the last 30 years.*

Plastic has been used for many purposes over the last 30 years.

1. Plastic has replaced paper bags and cardboard trays.

2. Manufacturers could produce plastic more cheaply.

3. Marine animals ingest plastic.

4. People aren't recycling and reusing plastic enough.

5. Plastic is polluting our oceans.

6. It has harmed hundreds of species of marine wildlife.

7. A global effort will reduce the harm caused by plastic.

8. People shouldn't throw away plastic products.

WRITING

Write your top five rules for reducing plastic. Write your sentences in the passive.

Example: *Your own bags **should be used** when shopping.*

Verbs followed by gerunds or infinitives

Certain verbs are followed by **infinitives**.

Most water parks **want to use** less water.

Park employees **encourage** visitors **to keep** water inside the pool.

Other verbs are followed by **gerunds**.

How can they **avoid wasting** water?

Some verbs can be followed by either, but sometimes with a difference in meaning.

He **remembered to go** to the park.

He **remembered going** to the park.

➔ Use the list on page 152 of the Student's Book to learn them.

1 Complete the sentences with the gerund. Use the verbs in the box.

collect go have recycle say separate take tell wash

Example: *I don't mind **taking** the rubbish to the recycling centre.*

- Has your town started _____ plastic yet?
- My brother keeps _____ me to save water.
- I'm not that keen on _____ to the landfill site.
- Do you think it's worth _____ your rubbish into different piles for recycling?
- I regret not _____ my own bags at the shop. I had to pay to buy plastic ones.
- Why does he object to _____ the car?
- Forgive me for _____ this, but you need to recycle more.
- My cousin's interested in _____ rainwater in a container in the garden.

2 Match the questions to the answers.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Do you like to use rainwater in the garden? | a. I suggest planting less thirsty plants in the garden. |
| 2. What else do you suggest for saving water? | b. Yes. I would encourage them to grow bee-friendly flowers. |
| 3. How do you prevent your lawn drying up? | c. Yes. I collect it from the roof in a large tank. |
| 4. Would you like to have a swimming pool? | d. A bit, I suppose. But I enjoy spending time in the nearby public gardens. |
| 5. Do you have any other tips for green gardeners? | e. I would hate to have one! They waste so much water! I can swim in the river! |
| 6. Now that you live in a flat, do you miss having a garden? | f. I haven't got a lawn, but you could try planting shrubs around the lawn to give more shade. |

3 Complete the sentences about water conservation using an infinitive or a gerund rather than a noun. Use your own ideas.

Example: *I think we should try **to develop ways of conserving water**.*

- I would like _____.
- When I think about solutions to water shortages, I imagine _____.
- We enjoy _____.
- We should encourage people _____.
- My parents admit _____.
- You should consider _____.

4 Look at the pairs of sentences. Tick the correct sentence. (Sometimes, both sentences might be correct.)

Example: a. *I remember being told to recycle the newspapers.*

b. *I remember being told recycling the newspapers.*

- a. My pet didn't like to be seen by the vet.

b. My pet didn't like being seen by the vet.
- a. I was asked to take shorter showers.

b. I was asked taking shorter showers.
- a. The director enjoyed to be filmed.

b. The director enjoyed being filmed.
- a. Dad hates being interrupted.

b. Dad hates to be interrupted.