

6A Vocabulary: Talking About Movies in English

Play the video, listen and follow along with the text.

Fill in the blanks.

1 Hi, again! This is Adam. I'm here to you and not with another ***** from
2 Engvid.com and today's lesson is a little bit complicated, but a little bit basic
3 at the same time. Today we're going to look at the passive form of the verb.
4 Now, before we get to look at the more complicated things, like the four
5 reasons to use the passive, let's have a very quick review of what is a *****
6 and how we construct it. So, if we look at a basic sentence 'The cat ate the
7 rat.' Okay, very easy. We have our subject, we have our verb and we have
8 our object. Very simple, everybody knows this, no problem. What we have
9 to remember is that in this sentence the ***** is doing the action to the
10 object. Good. In a passive sentence we are reversing this order, okay. We
11 are going now this way: what was the object is now the ***** and we have
12 a ***** 'was eaten.' 'By the cat' is now less important. If we want to say it,
13 we say it. If we don't, we take it out. But this is now not an object. We call
14 this now the 'agent' – the person or thing that is doing the ***** . So the
15 difference here is that the ***** is now receiving the ***** . Very easy, no
16 problem. How do we create the passive? 'Be' verb plus the past participle,
17 verb 3, some of you call it. Ok, no problem. Now, what we have to
18 concentrate on is the four reasons we use the passive. Students always ask
19 me, 'I know how to use the passive but why am I using the passive. I can
20 communicate easily, I can speak easily, I can write easily and never use the
21 passive.' Of course, you can, but there are reasons to ***** it. Okay, so the
22 ***** reason that we would use a passive is because the subject is
23 unknown, obvious or not important. If we don't know who or what did the
24 action, we can use a passive. If we know very clearly, it's very obvious who
25 did the action, then we can ***** a passive. If the person or thing that did
26 the action is just not important to our ***** , we can take it out and use the
27 passive. I'm going to give you some examples, don't worry. Another reason,
28 and a very important ***** , especially when you're writing, is to shift focus
29 of subject. If you want the object of your last sentence to now be the subject
30 of your next sentence, you can use the ***** to make that switch.
31 Remember 'The cat ate the rat,' we switched it, 'The rat was ***** by the
32 cat.' Great. Now, again, coming back to that question, I don't need to use it,
33 I can communicate easily without it. Yes, of course you can, but you want
34 sentence variety. If you say he did this, he did that, then he did this, then he
35 did that – that's very ***** . Nobody wants to listen to it, really, nobody
36 wants to read it, trust me. And the last reason is for coherence – to make it
37 something very understandable. And, flow – to make your, especially,
38 writing flow from one sentence to the next, one idea to the next. Makes it
39 more enjoyable for the reader. Now, let's look at some specific examples of
40 each one of these ***** . Okay, so let's look at —subject is
41 unknown/obvious/not important first. The building was vandalized. First of
42 all, what does 'vandalized' mean? 'Vandalized' means that somebody came
43 and did some damage to the building, maybe they spray-painted, maybe,
44 they broke some ***** , etc. So who did this, we don't know. I could say
45 that vandals did this, but I don't need to say it. That comes from the word,
46 it's obvious. I could say that ***** did this, but why? Better to use the
47 passive and concentrate on the building and what happened to it. 'The
48 flowers were delivered on time.' Who delivered it? Well, it's obvious, either
49 the ***** company, or the delivery company. I don't need to say it. It's very
50 clear that one of these two ***** the flowers. 'The roads were fixed quickly.'
51 Who fixed them? Who cares! They're fixed! That's what's ***** – I can
52 drive, I'm happy! Now, we can also use the passive and we commonly use
53 the passive to give information. 'The airplane was invented in the early 20th
54 century.' Exactly when – I don't want to say. Who invented it – I don't want
55 to say. Why? Maybe there's a little controversy there. Maybe, not everybody
56 believes the Wright brothers invented the airplane in ***** , so what do I
57 want to concentrate on? The airplane. Right, that's why I'm using the
58 passive. We have to choose what is more important and what is less ***** ,
59 so this is the main reason, this is the most common ***** we use the
60 passive. Ok, let's look at some other reasons. Ok, let's look at the third
61 reason. Don't worry, I haven't forgotten number two, I'm going to do that
62 after. First, I want to look at sentence variety. Now, why is this ***** ? This
63 is especially important for any of you who are going to take the IELTS or
64 TOEFL. Why? Because you're going to have to write an essay. Many-many
65 points come with this little topic. Extent is variety. So now, you could write
66 all your sentences in a standard subject-verb-object way. You could say,
67 'He did A, then he did B, after that he did C.' What is the problem with this?
68 No problem. Grammatically – it's okay. In terms of English, you can put

69 nice ***** in here. Okay, what is the problem? The problem is that it is
70 ***** . You don't want a boring essay, you want a fun, lively, engaging
71 essay. This is what the readers are looking for, right. So, 'how does the
72 passive come into play here,' you ask yourself. Well, I'll tell you, the passive
73 allows you to play with sentence structure, allows you to have different
74 varieties of ***** . 'He did A.' Same start. 'C wasn't done until he had
75 completed B.' My mistake here. Not only do you have a passive, you have a
76 past perfect. Bravo! Extra points for you, if you can do this. But, ***** ,
77 you got to have that passive, you got to get to that passive first, okay. This gives
78 you sentence variety. Now, when you see the next part, you'll see *****
79 number two and four together, you'll understand even more how the
80 passive can create nice sentences, create good flow, make it all easier and
81 focus the reader's attention on exactly what you want them to, okay. The
82 passive is very powerful, remember this! Let's look at the next examples.
83 Okay, so now we come to what is probably the most important ***** to use
84 the passive. And again, especially for writing, especially for the IELTS and
85 TOEFL. We're looking at shifting focus and creating flow in our ***** . So,
86 for example, you are writing an essay about Coca-cola. What is the most
87 important thing you're going to talk about? Of course it's Coca-cola, right.
88 So you want this to be your ***** . John Pemberton invented coca-cola.
89 We don't really care about John Pemberton. We care about what he
90 invented, so we switch around the sentence, right. Coca-cola was ***** by
91 a pharmacist named John Pemberton. Easy! We put the focus on the Coca-
92 cola, all the other information comes later. Now, because he is the last idea
93 we have here. We want to start with him. His original recipe contained
94 cocaine. Okay, regular sentence, active voice. Why? Because we have
95 John Pemberton. We want to continue with John Pemberton, but now we
96 want to introduce another new idea, okay. Which is why the drink was
97 named Coca-cola. I want to bring the reader back to my original subject –
98 coca-cola. So the passive is used for placement. Where do you want to put
99 your topics? Where do you want to put your subject? ***** do you want to
100 put your object? Where you want to put your ***** , for that matter. So now
101 the last idea I'm speaking about is the name Coca-cola. Remember, this is
102 very ***** . Today Coca-cola (again, I'm talking about the name, the
103 product) is a global brand. What is a brand? A brand is basically a name,
104 right. You see how I connected the ideas. I kept them close to each other.
105 This is where you get flow, okay. This makes it easy for the reader to follow
106 your ideas. If you have one idea here and then you talk about it again way
107 down there, ***** the reader can't make the connection. You want to bring
108 ideas that are similar, that are connected close together. So, today Coca-
109 cola is a global brand that is consumed by millions of people. Now, here, I
110 could say, 'Coca-cola is a global brand that millions of people consume,' but
111 the 'millions of people' – they're not ***** . What is important is
112 consumption. This is what you want to focus on, so what do you do? You
113 put it in a passive. You bring it closer to your original idea, brand. This is the
114 subject, this is another... what is an adjective clause, but we're putting this
115 closer to what the brand is. The millions of consumers, the millions of
116 people – not really important, we don't ***** about them, okay. So, I hope
117 you understand what I did here – I placed focus on the subject I wanted to. I
118 connected ideas together to create flow and, most of all, I have *****
119 variety. I don't say 'John Pemberton ***** coca-cola,' 'Coca-cola had
120 cocaine,' 'He named the drink coca-cola because of the cocaine,' right, it's
121 very-very ***** . Very *blah*, if you know what *blah* means. It means boring.
122 So, what we do, we have variety, we have flow, we have focus. Everybody's
123 ***** and who's the happiest? You! When you get your high IELTS and
124 TOEFL score. Okay, great, thank you very much for joining me today!
125 Please go to Engvid.com, there's a quiz there for you as usual and look at
126 the other-teachers' lessons, they're all very nice. Please come back and
127 ***** us again. Thank you very much!