

Lecture Three
English Language - Upper intermediate

Unit 1 Grammar summary: No place like home

The tense system

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Active or passive

1. These sentences sound unnatural in the active. Rewrite them using the passive.

1. They built our house in the 17th century.

Our house was built in the 17th century.

2. Someone's decorating by flat at the moment.

My flat's being decorated at the moment.

3. Has someone fixed the coffee machine yet?

Has the coffee machine been fixed yet?

4. We are in the restaurant while they were building the new kitchen.

While the new kitchen was being built, we ate in restaurants.

5. We arrived at work to find out that someone has burgled our office.

We arrived at work to find out that our office had been burgled.

6. They won't recognize her in those dark glasses.

She won't be recognized in those dark glasses.

2 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense, active or passive.

1. the burglars.....(catch) as they
.....(leave) the office.
2. The postbox.....always(empty)
at 12 midday.
3. Aunt Mary is terribly upset. Her cat(miss) for
three days now.
4. We(drive) down a quiet country lane when
suddenly we(overtake) by a police car.
5. When I woke up this morning, the world looked magical.
It.....(snow) all night.
6. When you(arrive) in New York, you
.....(pick up) by one of our drivers and taken to the
conference centre.