

- 2 Verbs that end in one -e lose the -e.

smoking coming hoping writing

BUT lie → lying

Verbs that end in -ee don't drop an -e.

agreeing seeing

- 3 Verbs of one syllable, with one vowel and one consonant, double the consonant.

*stop stop**ping** get get**ting** run run**ning***

If the final consonant is -y or -w, it is not doubled.

playing showing

➔ 3.4 State verbs

- 1 There are certain verbs that are usually only used in the Present Simple. They describe states or conditions, not activities.

Verbs of thinking and opinions

believe think understand suppose expect agree
doubt know remember promise mean imagine
realize deserve guess

*I **believe** you.*

*Do you **understand** what I mean?*

*I **know** what you **mean**.*

Verbs of emotions and feelings

like love hate care hope wish want prefer
adore dislike

*I **like** black coffee. **Do** you **want** to go out? I **don't care**.*

Verbs of having and being

belong own have possess contain cost seem matter
need depend weigh resemble fit involve

*This book **belongs** to Jane. How much **does** it **cost**?*

*He **has** a lot of money.*

Verbs of the senses

look hear taste smell feel sound

*The food **smells** good. My hair **feels** soft.*

We often use *can* when the subject is a person.

*I **can** hear someone crying.*

***Can** you smell something burning?*

- 2 Some of these verbs can be used in the Present Continuous, but with a change of meaning. In the continuous, the verb expresses an activity, not a state. Compare:

<i>I think you're right.</i> (opinion)	<i>We're thinking of going to the cinema.</i> (mental activity)
<i>He has a lot of money.</i> (possession)	<i>She's having a bad day.</i> (activity)
<i>I see what you mean.</i> (= understand)	<i>Are you seeing Nigel tomorrow?</i> (activity)
<i>The soup tastes awful.</i> (state)	<i>I'm tasting the soup to see if it needs salt.</i> (activity)

➔ 3.5 The passive

Form

to be + past participle

The tense of the verb *to be* changes to make tenses in the passive.

***Are** you **being served**?* (Present Continuous)

*My car **is insured** with ASM.* (Present Simple)

***Were** you **taken** to visit the cathedral?* (Past Simple)

*I've **been invited** to a wedding.* (Present Perfect)

*I'd love **to be introduced** to a film star.* (Passive infinitive)

Use

- 1 Passive sentences move the focus from the subject to the object of active sentences.

***Shakespeare wrote** Hamlet in 1601 while he was living in London.*

*Hamlet, the most famous play in English literature, **was written** by William Shakespeare.*

We choose the active or the passive depending on what we are more interested in.

- 2 *By* and the agent (the subject in the active sentence) are often omitted in passive sentences if ...

... the agent is not known:

*I **was burgled** last night.*

... the agent is not important:

*This bridge **was built** in 1886.*

... the agent is obvious:

*I **was fined** £100 for speeding.*

- 3 The passive is associated with an impersonal, formal style. It is often used in notices and announcements.

*Customers **are requested** to refrain from smoking.*

*It **has been noticed** that reference books **have been removed** from the library.*

- 4 In informal language, we often use *you*, *we*, and *they* to refer to people in general to avoid using the passive.

***You can buy** stamps in lots of shops, not just post offices.*

***They're building** a new department store in the city centre.*

***We speak** English in this shop.*

Many past participles are used as adjectives.

*I'm very **interested** in modern art.*

*We were extremely **worried** about you.*

*I'm **exhausted**! I've been working hard all day.*

➔ 3.6 Present Simple and Present Continuous passive

Form

Present Simple passive (am/is/are + past participle)

*Most workers **are paid** monthly. **Is** service **included** in the bill?*

Present Continuous passive (am/is/are being + past participle)

*This road **is being widened**. **Are** you **being served**?*

Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.

*My car **is serviced** every six months.* (routine)

*Computers **are used** everywhere.* (fact that is always true)

*The house **is being redecorated** at the moment.* (activity now)