

Be vs Get Passive

Both make the passive. **Be** is neutral and works everywhere: *The window was broken.* **Get** is informal and often suggests something happened suddenly, by accident, or wasn't wanted: *The window got broken during the party.*

BE PASSIVE · NEUTRAL, ANY STYLE

The window **was broken**.

• IN FOCUS · THING

the window



ACTION

was broken



DOER?

(someone)

GET PASSIVE · INFORMAL, IT JUST HAPPENED

The window **got broken** during the party.

• IN FOCUS · THING

the window



ACTION

got broken



DOER?

(someone)

by accident

1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- Be careful or you'll _____ hurt!
a) get b) be
- The report _____ approved by the board. (formal)
a) got b) was
- We _____ paid on the last day of the month.
a) get b) gets
- His car _____ stolen last week.
a) got b) was got
- Applications _____ reviewed within ten days.
a) get b) are

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. The new law got passed by parliament. (in a report)

2. I got stole my phone.

3. He was got injured.

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **Be passive** and one with **Get passive**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/be-vs-get-passive

Be vs Get Passive

1. Choose the right answer

1. **a) get** A sudden, unwanted event in speech: get.
2. **b) was** Formal writing: be.
3. **a) get** We get paid: get + participle.
4. **a) got** Get or be, not both.
5. **b) are** A formal notice: be.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **The new law was passed by parliament.** In formal writing, use be.
2. **My phone got stolen.** The thing is the subject: my phone got stolen.
3. **He got injured. / He was injured.** Use be or get, not both.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.