



# Passive (1)

**We use the passive in three situations:**

- a) When the object is more important than the subject
- b) When we do not know the subject.
- c) When we have a series of passives.

Examples:

- a) John Smith attacked the Queen
- b) Someone (or some people) has stolen my car!
- c) The lights were turned off, the windows shut and someone shut the doors.

Form: There are four rules to remember.

- 1) **The object becomes the subject (with a change if necessary).**
- 2) **Identify the verb tense, now use To Be in place of the original verb for the new subject.**
- 3) **Use the past participle of the original main verb**
- 4) **If known (and important) place the subject in the position of the object preceded by BY.**

Example:

Someone stole my car.

The verb **To Steal** is irregular: **Steal - Stole - Stolen**

- 1) **My car**
- 2) The tense is *past* so we use the past of the verb **To Be, Was, Were**, the new subject is **my car** so **was**
- 3) **Stolen**
- 4) The subject here is not important.