

Passives: verbs with object + infinitive

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Many verbs can be followed by object + infinitive.

Study the following sentences.

He asked me to call the doctor.

I believe him to be honest.

She requested me to help her.

He told me not to come back.

We know him to be a criminal.

In most cases these structures can be made passive.

I was asked to call the doctor. (Passive)

He is believed to be honest.

I was requested to help her.

I was told not to come back.

He is known to be a criminal.

In active structures, the verbs hear, see, make and help are followed by object + infinitive without to. In passive structures, to-infinitives are used.

I heard her sing a song. (NOT I heard her to sing a song.)

She was heard to sing a song. (NOT She was heard sing a song.)

I saw him get out of the train. (NOT I saw him to get out of the train.)

He was seen to get out of the train. (NOT He was seen get out of the train.)

They made him drink the milk.

He was made to drink the milk.

She helped me lift the box.

I was helped to lift the box.

They made her repeat the whole story.

She was made to repeat the whole story.