

The passive of modal verbs

A Complete the conversations with the active or passive form of the verbs given.

- A I think 15-year-olds _____ (should / allow) to have jobs. They're old enough.
B Well, I think they _____ (should / spend) their time studying, not working.
A Yes, but I still think they _____ (ought to / give) a choice about whether to work.
Some kids _____ (need to / earn) money, and they _____
(should / encourage) to work.
- A People _____ (should / not / allow) to get credit cards until they're 21. They're not responsible enough.
B But young people _____ (need to / learn) to manage their money, don't they?
A Yes, but they _____ (not / have to / give) credit cards. They _____
(could / use) debit cards instead.
- A Something _____ (ought / do) about dangerous drivers who've caused an accident.
Maybe their licenses _____ (could / take) away for life or something.
B But people learn from mistakes. They _____ (should / not / lose) their licenses forever.
A Well, maybe they _____ (should / required) to take a driving test every year, then.

get passive vs. be passive

A Complete the comments on transportation in other countries. Use the *get* or *be* passive with the verbs given. Both forms are possible.

- People who _____ (catch) speeding in Norway can _____ (fine) 10 percent of their annual income. Sometimes they _____ (sentence) to 18 days in jail, too. That's pretty harsh. I mean, they should just _____ (sentence) to community service instead. – *Lars, Norway*
- Here in Germany, people _____ (not / arrest) for speeding on the freeway because many areas don't have a speed limit. I love to drive fast, so I definitely think these laws should _____ (not / change). But you know, people _____ (fine) for running out of gas on the freeway. I guess it's dangerous, so . . . – *Lena, Germany*
- It's interesting, but in some European countries, if your car breaks down, and you get out of the car without a visibility vest, you could _____ (fine). I really think laws like that should _____ (not / enforce). Actually, things like that should _____ (not / make) into laws at all. It should be your own choice. – *Jill, United States*

The past perfect

A Complete the blog post with the simple past or past perfect. Sometimes both are possible.

Was it a just a coincidence?

I have some good news for everyone! It's a long story, but . . . in my last year of high school, in California, I _____ (have) a friend named Sophia. We _____ (meet) two years earlier when we were both playing on the softball team. After we graduated, she _____ (move) to Texas because she _____ (get) a place at a culinary school there. After a few months, she _____ (break up) with me because _____ (meet) someone else. I was very upset, but I accepted it because we _____ (not / see) each other since graduation. Eventually I _____ (get) a job in Chicago. Before I left California, I _____ (try) to contact Sophia and her family, but no one _____ (return) my calls. Then, last month, I _____ (go) to the grocery store, and there was Sophia, in line at the checkout. It turned out she _____ (get) a job in Chicago a month earlier, and she _____ (move) into an apartment on my street! It was weird because I _____ (spend) a whole year trying to contact her. And the best thing was that Sophia _____ (miss) me, too. Anyway, to make a long story short, we're now planning to get married. Maybe it wasn't a coincidence after all!

Responses with *So* and *Neither*

A Read the conversations. Circle the correct responses. There may be more than one. Then practice with a partner.

- A When I was a kid, I never went anywhere without my good luck charm.
B Really? That's funny. **Neither was I.** **I did too.** (I di dn'teither.)
- A So many people claim they've seen UFOs, but I've never seen one.
B **Neither have I.** / **I wasn't either.** / **I haven't either.** Actually, I don't believe they exist.
- A I always make a wish before I blow out the candles on my birthday cake.
B **I am too.** / **So do I.** / **I don't either.** But my wishes never come true!
- A A few times, I've had the strange feeling I've been somewhere before – you know, like *déjà vu*.
B **So have I.** / **I haven't either.** / **I am too.** It's weird, isn't it?
- A I'm always losing things – my umbrella, my keys, and stuff like that.
B **So am I.** / **So do I.** / **Neither did I.** / **I am too.** I guess we're both a bit forgetful.
- A Something weird happened to me once. Like really weird. I had a dream, and it came true.
B Really? **So did I.** / **Neither did I.** / **I did too.** / **I was too.** Actually, it scared me a little.
- A Some people believe in telepathy, but not me. I don't believe you can read people's minds.
B **Neither do I.** / **I'm not either.** / **I don't either.** I never know what other people are thinking.