



# DISASTERS: SAVED BY THE FIRE BRIGADE

## PASSIVE (PRESENT AND PAST)



→ Remember: When using passive it's often not so important by whom something is done.

e.g.: A heavy storm has damaged a roof. Firemen fix it.

→ Study the examples: Firemen fix a damaged roof.

*(present simple, active)*

**A damaged roof is fixed (by firemen).**

*(present simple passive – The roof can't repair itself!)*

→ We often use **past simple** tense (was/were + 3<sup>rd</sup> form of the verb).  
The subject (S) becomes the object (O) and the object becomes the subject.

e.g.:

After a heavy thunderstorm firemen (S) cleaned the road (O) of mud and rocks.  
*(past simple, active)*

After a heavy thunderstorm the road was cleaned of mud and rocks (by firemen).  
*(past simple, passive – The road can't clean itself!)*



Use the following newspaper headlines and make them passive:

→ Note: Disasters are usually over when newspapers report about them!

**Flood: Fire brigade saves family from drowning**

**STORM DESTROYS VILLAGE**

**Hailstorm damages cars**

**Earthquake in Nepal – Rescue dogs find survivors**

**Flood in Upper and Lower Austria –  
Volunteers fill 100,000 sandbags**



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→ *Newspaper style*

Flood: Family saved from drowning (by fire brigade).

Village destroyed (by a storm).

Cars damaged (by hailstorm).

Earthquake in Nepal - Survivors found (by rescue dogs).

Flood in Upper and Lower Austria - 100,000 sandbags filled (by volunteers).

→ *Grammatically correct style*

Flood: A Family was saved from drowning (by fire brigade).

Village was destroyed (by storm).

Cars were damaged (by a hailstorm).

Earthquake in Nepal - Survivors were found (by rescue dogs).

Flood in Upper and Lower Austria - 100,000 sandbags were filled (by volunteers).

Die Sätze können als Zwischenschritt auch zuerst in die present simple tense übersetzt werden.  
Bei den Zeitungsschlagzeilen kann zwischen "Zeitungsstil" (keine vollständigen Sätze) und  
grammatikalisch korrektem Stil (vollständige Sätze) gewählt werden.



## PORTFOLIO-TASK 1

### → Design your own newspaper page!

Come up with three more disaster-headlines and find suitable pictures on the internet.

## PORTFOLIO-TASK 2

### → Work in pairs or teams of three: Imagine you are news presenters.

Use your mobile phones or cameras to film a news clip of three minutes. Inform your classmates about disasters – first only read out the headlines, then come up with details.

**Remember:** News presenters read their text on a screen you can't see. If you don't have a screen, you can use a piece of cardboard.



After heavy snowfalls roofs have to be freed from snow to avoid damage.



A village has been cut off by floods.





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**PORTFOLIO-TASK 1**

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Come up with three more disaster-headlines and find suitable pictures on the internet.

*Diese Aufgabe kann fächerübergreifend (z. B. mit Geografie) gelöst werden. Bei Verwendung eines Computers trägt sie auch zur Steigerung der digitalen Kompetenzen bei.*



**PORTFOLIO-TASK 2**

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*Bei Verwendung eines Computers trägt diese Aufgabe auch zur Steigerung der digitalen Kompetenzen bei. Die Filme können als Grundlage für einen Bericht auf der Schulhomepage verwendet werden. Weiters können sie im Hinblick auf künftige Bewerbungsgespräche auch Rückmeldungen auf Körpersprache bzw. Aussprache geben. Wichtig ist, die Übung „vorzuentlasten“, sodass etwaige Stolperfallen (zu schnelles, zu leises Sprechen, übertriebenes Gestikulieren oder reine Leseübungen) verhindert werden und niemand bloßgestellt wird.*

**NOTIZEN**

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