Will
Hello and welcome to today’s Grammar Gameshow! I’m your host, Will! It’s a short ‘I’... less like ‘sheep’, and more like ‘ship’. And of course, let’s not forget Leslie, our all-knowing voice in the sky.

Leslie
Hello everyone!

Will
Tonight we’re going to ask you three questions about…

Leslie
Present and past passives. That whodunnit verb form that’s made with ‘be’ and a past participle.

Will
OK! Now, let’s meet our contestants!

Selene
Hello all. My name’s Selene.

Will
And contestant number two? Contestant number two? Oh dear, it seems…

Mark
Hello, everyone! My name is Mark.

Selene
Mark! You came back!

Mark
Of course! What is a herd of stampeding elephants compared to true love?
Will
Wow! Mark! This is a first! Welcome back! We really need to feed the elephants less.
Still… respect!

Mark
Thanks, Will. I’ll never let us be separated again, my love.

Selene
Nor I, my… elephant man.

Will
Awww… isn’t that cute? I’ll tell you what. If you can both get through the episode without
making a single mistake, I’ll let you both go together.

Mark
Really? Ok! Let’s do it!

Will
OK. Our first round is a quick-fire round. Change these sentences into present or past
passives. Someone stole our car.

Selene
Our car was stolen.

Leslie
Correct!

Will
People use buses every day.

Mark
Buses are used every day.

Leslie
Correct!

Will
I peeled and sliced the onion.

Selene
The onion was peeled and sliced.

Leslie
Correct!
Will
Selene loves Mark.

Mark
Mark is loved by Selene.

Leslie
Correct!

Will
Tell them Leslie!

Leslie
The passive verb form is made using 'be' and a past participle verb. The object of the active sentence is moved to the subject position and the verb is transformed. The tense applies to the 'be' verb: 'are' or 'is' for present, and 'was' or 'were' for past!

Will
Good job, lovebirds! Have 20 points! On to our next question. We use the passive form for many reasons. Here are a few of them, but one of them is incorrect. Which one is it? The action or object is more important than the subject. We do not know who did the action. The person who did the action is obvious. The action or object is hypothetical or unreal.

Selene and Mark
… mutter… mutter…

Will
I'm going to have to hurry you.

Selene
Trust me.

Mark
To the end of Earth and back.

Selene
The answer is D.

Will
Leslie?
Leslie
Correct! The passive verb form is only used for specific reasons, mostly concerning how the speaker views the object and subject. If they consider the object or action to be more important than the subject, or if the subject is unknown, or obvious, they are more likely to use a passive structure. Well done, lovebirds.

Will
Alright! Control yourselves! Three points to both of you. One more right answer, and you can leave together! Here we go. When using the passive, we may wish to include the person doing the action. This subject is known as the ‘agent’, but which preposition do we use to introduce them?

Selene
We use ‘by’. For example: My heart was captured by Mark.

Will
Correct! But it’s not over yet! Sometimes we also include the object that was used to perform the action. This is known as the ‘instrument’. Which preposition introduces it?

Selene
I don’t know!

Mark
Nor do I. I’m sorry… we’re not going to make it.

Selene
But at least we’ll be together!

Will
How touching. I can’t let you drop like that! Look…

Selene
With! The instrument is introduced using ‘with’. The door was unlocked with a key!

Will
Leslie?

Leslie
That’s right! In a passive, if you wish to introduce the person doing the action, we use ‘by’. To introduce a tool that they have used, we use ‘with’ For example: The elephants were defeated by Mark with his bare hands. What a man.
Will
Indeed, Leslie! Well done both of you. That brings us to the end of today’s Grammar Gameshow. You’ve passed. Here’s what you’ve won!

Leslie
It’s an unmatched set of wedding rings!

Will
I know something about love. Yes… in all the cafes, in all the worlds, she had to walk into mine… but that was such a long time ago. Go on. Go with our blessing. Go on. Hurry up. We will drop you. It looks like we’ll need two more contestants. Well… we’ll see you again next week when…

Levington
I made it! I’m alive!

Will
Levington! You too? We’ve really got to grease that tube! How do you feel?

Levington
I feel invincible…

Will
Sorry! We can only help one person a day… today wasn’t yours. Loose the bats! Thanks for joining us. Say goodbye, Leslie.

Leslie
Zàijiàn Leslie

Will
See you next time.