

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

Explanations

With the agent *by*

This tells us who does the action.

Peter was kidnapped by aliens from another galaxy.

In this sentence; who did it= aliens.

With the agent *with*

This tells us what was used to do the action.

The door was opened with a special key.

In this sentence; what was used = a special key.

- An agent is not always necessary.

The window was broken last night.

We do not know who did it.

The castle was built in the 18th century.

We are interested in the date, but not in the architect.

The money was stolen.

We know that robbers, thieves, etc. steal things.

The money was stolen by robbers wearing masks.

We are interested in who did the stealing.

The match has been cancelled.

The person or people who decided to cancel the match are not named.

Careful!

born is always **passive**

Jim was born in Australia.

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- What is passive in your language but not in English?