Introduction

1) Have you ever seen the TV programme *Downton Abbey*? What is it about?

2) Describe what is happening in this picture:

3) What is a "butler"? Would you like to be a butler? Why (not)?

Video

   a) Watch the video for the first time. What is "the Downton Abbey effect"?
   b) Now watch the video for a second time and mark the following statements true or false.

   1. Demand for British butlers has increased recently.
   2. Prince William and wife Catherine want a butler.
   3. Grant Harrold works for the Prince Charles.
   4. One of the keys to being a butler is silence.
   5. Demand for the British butler is because of new-money in China, Russia and the Middle East.
   6. In the 1980s there were only 1,000 butlers in service in the UK.
   7. Many British butlers now go abroad because there are more perks.
   8. At Sara Vestin Rahmani's academy in China there are more women butlers than men.
   9. The allure of the British butler is finesse and etiquette.
   10. A good butler can make more than £200,000 a year.
   11. Steve Ford says his job is more important than his family life.
   12. Ford thinks anyone can be a butler.
Grammar - Passive Voice

The following extracts from the video contain examples of the passive voice being used:

"In the 1930s, it’s thought there were around 30,000 butlers in service in Britain."

"These days, there are thought to be around 10,000 butlers, but that number is now going through the roof..."

These are two examples of passive reporting structures which are used in more formal writing and reporting to show general opinion.

- **It + passive reporting verb + that + clause:** "it’s thought there were around 30,000 butlers in service in Britain."
  
  You can change the tense (it has been thought that..., it was thought that...) and the reporting verb.

- **Subject + passive reporting verb + infinitive:** "there are thought to be around 10,000 butlers."
  
  You can change the tense (Butlers have been thought to be..., Britain was thought to be...).

- **Examples of reporting verbs used in the passive voice:**

  - allege
  - believe
  - observe
  - discover
  - consider
  - report
  - know
  - declare
  - say
  - claim
  - presume
  - prove
  - show
  - suppose
  - understand
  - see
  - expect
  - find
  - estimate
  - reveal

Grammar - Production

Think back the video and complete the following sentences based on what you learnt:

"British butlers are thought to..." 

...by the super-rich in China, Russia and the Middle East."

"It is believed that Downton Abbey..."

"Cash bonuses, cars and watches are known to"

"It has been observed that a British accent..."
Grammar - Extension

The passive can also be used to talk about actions done for you by other people. Look at the following examples:

"The Lord had his shoes polished by his servant"

"Prince William needed to get his shirt ironed before leaving the palace."

"Kate wanted to have her hair cut by the most famous hairdresser in London."

- **Subject + have (conjugated) + past participle.**
- The verb get can also be used. There is no difference in use or meaning.
- Use by to add the agent (the person who does the action).

Speaking

Your teacher will give you a card with a passive statement on it like the this:

I get my shirts ironed by my mother.

- The first person reads out their card to the class. Do not change the statement on the card!
- If the information on the card is true for you, then answer the questions truthfully.
- If the information is not true for you, make up information to try and convince the class the information is correct.
- The class must ask more questions connected to the card, e.g.:

Do you pay your mother money to iron your shirts?

- When the class has finished questioning, they must decide if they think the story is true or a lie.
- Don’t give your answers away by showing any reactions to what is written on your card!
**Truth or Lie cards**

***PLEASE READ ALL THE CARDS TO CHECK THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR CLASS, CULTURAL SENSITIVITY MAY ARISE***

| I've had professional photos of myself taken. | I have my haircut by a member of my family. | I've never had to have my car serviced. |
| I had my last phone stolen. | I have never had my house painted by a professional; I do it myself. | I had my legs waxed for charity. |
| I get the newspaper delivered to my house every day. | I need to get my watch repaired. | I refuse to have my photo taken if I don't feel good. |
| I regularly have flowers delivered to my house. | I don't go to the supermarket; I get all my food delivered. | I have had my belly button pierced. |
| I want to get my back tattooed. | I have my homework checked by someone else to make sure it's correct. | I had a pizza delivered to my house at the weekend. |
| I have my teeth checked for free by a friend who is a dentist. | I had my suitcase lost by an airline. | I had my computer broken by somebody borrowing it. |
| I had my portrait painted when I was younger. | I always had my work copied in school. | I had my arm put in a cast when I broke it. |