

WELLCOME

let's get
to know
Grace
better

and hear all about
her adoption story



Hi everybody! My name is Grace and I wanna tell you about my adoption story. So, it all started when my parents found out they could not have any kids so they decided to go the adoption route. And in college they knew an older couple and this older couple had decided to move to Bolivia and they knew my parents were wanting to adopt so when they were in Bolivia, they met this lady who wanted to give up her baby for adoption for certain reasons. So, they called my parents and said "hey, we know you're looking for a baby to adopt and this might be the one if you guys wanna come down and meet... (her name was Silvia, my mom, my birth mom). If you wanna meet Silvia and meet her daughter". And my parents thought about it and decided to hop on a plane and come down to Bolivia to meet me. So down in Bolivia they met my birth mom and started paperwork to be able to adopt me. And back then in, I believe it was 1992, paperwork was so much easier and adoption was thankfully very quick for us. And I say "us" because not only did my parents adopt me but they also adopted my older brother. So initially my birth mom wanted to give me up for adoption and when she met my parents and saw how loving and caring they were towards me, she decided also if my parents wanted, they would... she would let them adopt my older brother as well. So, my parents came to Bolivia looking for one child and went back to the United States with two.

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Even when we went back to the United States, paperwork was not easy. My mom still had her job as a nurse thankfully because in Bolivia the paperwork took about six months before myself and my brother could leave the country. So, my dad had to quit his job, he was a teacher, so he decided to quit teaching and move down to Bolivia to be with us for six months while my mom would fly back and forth because she still had her job as a nurse in Ohio. And so, finally at six months my parents were allowed to take us back to the United States and then I believe a year later is when the paperwork was finally finalized. And so that's how we got to the United States and we lived in Ohio for about six years and after six years my parents decided we were gonna move to Madrid, Spain. So, we moved to Spain when I was six and I knew no Spanish at all and it was very difficult to learn the language. Well, not so much to learn the language but very difficult to acclimate to a different culture and my parents put my brothers and I first into a Spanish school so we could learn Spanish and we learnt in about... I believe a year and a half or so. Most like... you know... everything that we needed to know to be able to communicate.

a n y

p a s s i v e

s e n t e n c e s ?

a n y
p a s s i v e
s e n t e n c e s ?

(...) my parents were allowed to take us back to the United States.

(...) a year later is when the paperwork was finally finalized.

GRAMMAR



Passive voice

It's used often
by native speakers
/ not only in informal situations /

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- the action is the most important part of the sentence.
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- you don't want to say who or what did the action.
- the person doing the action is obvious.
- the object cannot do the action itself.

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The mayor donated thousands of
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Juan de Villanueva built the Prado Museum in 1785.

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Teacher Lilah was pulled over for
driving too fast.

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The police pulled over teacher Lilah for driving too fast.

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Over a hundred chocolate cakes were sold on the weekend.

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Intransitive verbs cannot be made into the passive since they don't have an object:
I bought a coffee vs I arrived late

Passive sentences are used in newspapers, in scientific reports, in legal documents... because the information has to be objective so often there's no subject.



20:25 18 Nov

Germany to place tighter curbs on unvaccinated



Fresh restrictions will be introduced in areas with high Covid hospitalisation rates, officials say.

[Read more >](#)

Fresh restrictions will be introduced in areas with high Covid hospitalisation rates, officials say.



3:24 19 Nov

US states probe how Instagram targets children



A bipartisan group will investigate whether consumer protection laws for children were violated.

[Read more >](#)

A bipartisan group will investigate whether consumer protection laws for children were violated.



16:25 19 Nov

Are farm incomes in India growing?

By Shruti Menon
BBC Reality Check



Promises were made to farmers that rural reforms would double their income, so what's happened to their livelihoods?

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Promises were made to farmers that rural reforms would double their income, so what's happened to their livelihoods?



18:57 19 Nov

Millions sent to allies of Congo ex-leader - leak

By Africa Eye
BBC World Service



Family and friends of former DR Congo President Joseph Kabila are named by Africa's biggest data leak.

[Read more >](#)

Millions (were) sent to allies of
Congo ex-leader -leak

Family and friends of former DR
Congo President Joseph Kabila are
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steps to turn an active sentence into a passive sentence

- identify the subject, the verb and the object of the active sentence
 - move the object to become the new subject of the sentence
 - check the active sentence (verb tense)
 - conjugate the verb "be"
 - add the past participle of the main verb after "be"
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Lilah ate the chocolate cake.

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The chocolate cake was eaten (by Lilah).

passive > be + past participle

present

am / are / is

perfect
tenses

been

past

was / were

continuous
tenses

being

Lilah eats the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake is eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah eats the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake is eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah ate the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake was eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah eats the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake is eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah ate the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake was eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah has eaten the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake has been eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah eats the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake is eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah ate the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake was eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah has eaten the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake has been eaten (by Lilah).

Lilah is eating the chocolate cake.
The chocolate cake is being eaten (by Lilah).

P O L L

T I M E



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My older brother and I, he's actually my half-brother. We have the same mom but different dads. We were adopted together like I said back... a long time ago in the 1900s and my brother actually found my birth mom. He put out... I think a few ads in the newspaper in South America. I forget what year it was but I think it might have been 2017 but he put a few ads out in the newspaper and one of my half-sisters that I didn't know even existed until recently saw the ad and told our birth mom and she contacted, I think, my brother. And they were in contact for a little bit and then he told me that he was in contact with her and that we have three half-sisters so it was kind of cool how it all worked out because I was already going down the summer of 2018 to Bolivia 'cause I've always wanted to work in an orphanage and kind of go back and see where I would've grown up had I still lived in Bolivia and not been adopted because I've always been super grateful to my parents that they chose me and my brother to adopt us and take us out of Bolivia, out of poverty and give us a better life. And so, I've always wanted to go back to Bolivia and kind of see what my life would have been like if I would have stayed there.

We were adopted together (...) in the 1900s.

We were adopted together (...) in the 1900s.
Someone adopted us together in the 1900s.

- *My brother actually found my birth mom.*

- *My brother actually found my birth mom.*
- *My birth mom was found by my brother.*

- He put a few ads out in the newspaper.
(also > he put out a few ads in the newspaper).

- He put a few ads out in the newspaper.
(also > he put out a few ads in the newspaper).
- A few ads were put out in the newspaper (by him).

- *My parents chose me and my brother.*

- My parents chose me and my brother.
- My brother and I were chosen (by my parents).

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So, I already had a trip planned to go back to Bolivia in 2018 so when I heard about my birth mom, I thought she was still in Bolivia but turns out she was in Peru. And so, I decided, you know... why not buy another plane ticket from Bolivia to Peru so I could see her and meet her and my sisters before I came back to the United States. So, I went down to Bolivia and I believe it was June of 2018 and I flew down there. I knew some people that were actually working at an orphanage there so I spent a weekend with actually my parent's friends who introduced my parents to me and my brother way back when and I stayed with them for a weekend and then I traveled down to the orphanage and I was at the orphanage for I believe six weeks or so, I think it was six weeks. And I worked there with, it's actually some American ladies who run the orphanage down there and that's how I heard about it, it's another long story but I won't get into that.

- *I knew some people.*

- I knew some people.
- Some people were known by me.

- *My parents' friends who introduced my parents to me.*

- *My parents' friends who introduced my parents to me.*
- *I was introduced to my parents by my parents' friends.*

- *American ladies run the orphanage in Bolivia.*

- American ladies run the orphanage in Bolivia.
- The orphanage in Bolivia is run by American ladies.

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So I worked down there and then I packed up my stuff and I decided to fly to Peru so I was very nervous, of course... getting on the plane to go to Peru and got off the plane and went outside and saw my birth mom for the first time which was super surreal and I met one of my sisters there too and basically I stayed at an Airbnb for six days and I was able to talk to them, catch up, you know... hear basically about how my adoption came about and basically kind of catch them up on my life since I left Bolivia and moved to Ohio and then moved to Spain and then back to Ohio. So it was kind of like this big healing process that I went through emotionally, physically... It was rough, it was very hard just to meet them, I will say, because you know, I grew up with my parents that I consider them my mom and my dad but obviously this woman that I was with is my birth mom, she gave birth to me, right? And so, it's kind of cool 'cause I always say that I have two moms, you know? My birth mom and my real mom, right?

- *I pack up my stuff.*

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)
- I will pack up my stuff.

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)
- I will pack up my stuff.
- My stuff will be packed up (by me)

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)
- I will pack up my stuff.
- My stuff will be packed up (by me)
- I have packed up my stuff.

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)
- I will pack up my stuff.
- My stuff will be packed up (by me)
- I have packed up my stuff.
- My stuff has been packed up (by me).

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)
- I will pack up my stuff.
- My stuff will be packed up (by me)
- I have packed up my stuff.
- My stuff has been packed up (by me).
- I'm packing up my stuff.

- I pack up my stuff.
- My stuff is packed up (by me)
- I will pack up my stuff.
- My stuff will be packed up (by me)
- I have packed up my stuff.
- My stuff has been packed up (by me).
- I'm packing up my stuff.
- My stuff is being packed up (by me).

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But I think it's such a big blessing that my parents chose to come down to Bolivia to meet me, to meet my older brother and decide that they wanted to adopt both of us and bring us back and give us a better life and honestly that has given me so many opportunities, ever since I was adopted, to learn English and learn Spanish and grow up in Spain and learn the Spanish culture and then also come back to the United States and learn the American culture and it's just been, like... I can't even imagine what my life would have been like if I would have stayed in Bolivia. It would have been completely different and honestly, I don't know... I couldn't even tell you what I would be doing right now if I would have stayed in Bolivia. So, it's such a blessing, I'm very grateful to my parents and I definitely encourage adoption to anybody who thinks about it because it's a beautiful thing. You're rescuing this child from circumstances that are not their fault and you're giving them a better life and that's what happened to me so I'm very thankful and glad that Lilah asked me to share this story with you guys because like I said, it's very, it's very important to know about adoption and how it can positively impact a kid's life.

- *I definitely encourage adoption to anybody who thinks about it.*

- *I definitely encourage adoption to anybody who thinks about it.*
- *Adoption is encouraged to anybody who thinks about it.*

- You're rescuing this child from circumstances that are not their fault.

- You're rescuing this child from circumstances that are not their fault.
- This child is being rescued (by you) from circumstances that are not their fault.

- *And you're giving them a better life.*

- *And you're giving them a better life.*
- *A better life is being given (by you) to them.*

- *Adoption can positively impact a kid's life.*

- *Adoption can positively impact a kid's life.*
- *A kid's life can positively be impacted by adoption.*

Q & A
time to ask

T H a n k

y o u