



Advanced English

Mistakes with the passive

The following verbs cannot change the indirect object to subject:
admit, announce, demonstrate, describe, explain, mention,
point out, prove, report, say and suggest.

Examples:

1. They explained the rules to us more than once.
~~✗ We were explained the rules more than once.~~
✓ The rules were explained to us more than once.
2. They suggested a solution to us.
~~✗ We were suggested a solution.~~
✓ A solution was suggested to us.
3. They described the situation to us as dangerous.
~~✗ We were described the situation as dangerous.~~
✓ The situation was described to us as dangerous.
4. They announced the news to the staff.
~~✗ The staff were announced the news.~~
✓ The news was announced to the staff.
5. They mentioned to us that the cost is higher than expected.
~~✗ We were mentioned that the cost is higher than expected.~~
✓ It was mentioned to us that the cost is higher than expected.