



LEARN TO READ SCIENCE

Курс английского языка
для аспирантов

УЧЕБНОЕ ПОСОБИЕ

Курс английского языка
для аспирантов и научных
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Passive structure

Should I Use *Active* or *Passive* Voice in a Research Paper?



As you remember...

Use of Passive

Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

Example: My bike was stolen.



Form of Passive

Subject + finite form of *to be* + Past Participle (3rd column of irregular verbs)

PASSIVE VOICE

English:
learn, read, enjoy!

	Simple	Continuous	Perfect
	to be V3	to be being V3	To have been V3
Present	am } is } V3 are }	am } is } being V3 are }	have } has } been V3
Past	was } were } V3	was } were } being V3	had been V3
Future	Shall } will } be V3	-----	will have been V3



PASSIVE VOICE

-emphasizes person or
object receiving the
action

ACTIVE VOICE

-emphasizes the agent
performing the action

passive

active



1990's

2018



1) When the agent of the action is unimportant, unknown, or obvious

“Over 20,000 patients are diagnosed (by doctors) with diabetes each year in the United States.”



**2) When the object or
action itself is more
important than the agent
performing the action**



**3) When the recipient of
the action is the topic of
the sentence**



ACTIVE VOICE

-emphasizes the agent
performing the action



Should I Use Active or Passive Voice in a Research Paper?

PASSIVE VOICE

-emphasizes person or
object receiving the
action



✚  Passive structure 

✚  Q and A 

If you have any questions you can write here

✚  Should I Use Active or Passive Voice in a Research Paper? 



1. PASSIVE STRUCTURES AND THEIR MESSAGE

Pattern Study (1)

Pattern 1:

... N₁ ... V_{pass} (Prep.) ... (by/ with-phr.) ...

The idea was first suggested by Prof. X. Эта мысль была впервые высказана проф. X.

An idea was suggested to use another method. Была высказана мысль использовать другой метод.

Pattern Practice (1)

Ex. 1. **Identify the passive structures and the logical predicates, translate the sentences into Russian as shown in the following example.**

Example: *More evidence was obtained to support the idea.*

"Evidence was obtained" is the passive structure, "more evidence . . . to support the idea" is the logical predicate.

Были получены новые данные в поддержку этой идеи.

The problem was first recognized in the 19th century. Later an idea was suggested to apply it to practical things. Many possibilities for practical applications were analysed. Some of these were tested by experiment. The experimental results were not generally accepted, and the idea was discarded. Then other consequences were deduced and a new model proposed. Recently the model has been modified and is now being used in many practical situations.

B. Give English equivalents of the following Russian phrases using impersonal passive structures and adverbs “widely,” “generally” where required.

1. Говорят, что....
2. Предполагается, что....
3. Можно надеяться, что....
4. Следует признать, что....
5. Было найдено, что....
6. Общеизвестно, что....
7. Считают, что....
8. Широко распространено мнение, что....



Ex. 3. Identify passive structures and give Russian equivalents of the relevant part of the sentence as shown in the following example.

Example: *Under these conditions the questions cannot be answered unambiguously. "The question cannot be answered"*
На вопрос нельзя ответить

1. Some people are easily influenced by other people's opinions.
2. The distribution of plants is greatly affected by local conditions.
3. The seminar was attended by all the participants.
4. His lectures are always followed by heated discussions.
5. In several areas of research the efforts of scientists are joined by those of philosophers and sociologists.
6. At the university students are offered a curriculum of study which is followed by a test and the award of a degree.
7. The members of the laboratory were consulted prior to this successful operation.



Pattern Vocabulary (1). List 1

- Remember some of the verbs taking a direct object in English but equivalent to Russian verbs followed by a preposition.

to affect — влиять (на);

to answer — отвечать (на);

to approach — подойти (к);

to attend — присутствовать (на) (и активно участвовать);

to consult — консультироваться (у, с);

to enjoy — получать удовольствие (от), пользоваться;

to follow — следовать, следить (за);

to influence — влиять (на);

to join — присоединяться (к);

to watch — наблюдать (за).

Write a short essay using passive structures+Pattern Vocabulary (p.20) **Why should a teacher write scientific papers?**

