

Passive Voice

Passive and Active

- ✓ We use active voice to say what the actor/subject does
- ✓ Passive voice is used to say what happens to the object

What is passive voice?

Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action, not on the actor.

Passive VS. Active



My grandfather built a house.

Subject

Object




A house was built by my grandfather.

Subject

Object

General Structure

Be (is/was/have been, etc) + Past participle



Sb. stole my bike ➤ My bike was stolen (~~by sb~~)

We made a mistake ➤ A mistake was made (~~by us~~)

Sb. wrote a letter ➤ A letter was written (~~by sb.~~)

Verb Tenses

PRESENT SIMPLE

Main Verb ➤ Is/are + Past Participle

Somebody **cleans** this room everyday

This room **is cleaned** everyday (~~by sb~~)

Verb Tenses

PAST SIMPLE

Main Verb ➤ Was/were + Past Participle

Somebody cleaned this room yesterday

This room was cleaned yesterday

Verb Tenses

SIMPLE FUTURE

Will + Main Verb ➤ Will + be + Past Participle



Somebody will clean this room tomorrow

This room will be cleaned tomorrow

Verb Tenses

PRESENT PERFECT

Have/has + Verb (participle)



Have/has + Been + Past Participle

This room looks nice.

Somebody **has cleaned** this room

This room looks nice. It **has been cleaned**

Verb Tenses

PAST PERFECT

Had + Verb (participle)



Had + Been + Past Participle

This room looks nice.

Somebody **had cleaned** this room

This room looks nice. It **had been cleaned**

Verb Tenses

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Is/are + Verb(ing)



Is/are + Being + Past Participle

Somebody is cleaning this room at the moment


This room is being cleaned at the moment

Verb Tenses

PAST CONTINUOUS

Was/were + Verb(ing)

Was/were + Being + Past Participle



Somebody **was cleaning** this room when I arrived

This room **was being cleaned** when I arrived

Verb Tenses

MODAL INFINITIVE (Should, could, may, might...)

Modal + Have + Verb (participle)



Modal + Have + Been + Past Participle

Somebody should have cleaned this room

This room should have been cleaned

Verbs with two objects: Example #1

One object: Jane wrote a letter

Two objects: Jane wrote a letter to Jack

or

Jane wrote Jack a letter

1. A letter was written (by Jane)
2. Jack was written a letter (by Jane)

Verbs with two objects: Example #2

One object: **We** gave the information

Two obj.: **We** gave the information to The Police

or

We gave The Police the information

1. The information was given to The Police
2. The police were given the information (~~by us~~)

Verbs with two objects: Example #3

One object: They donated the money

Two obj.: They donated the money to the Non-profit organization

or

They donated the Non-profit organization the money

1. The money was donated to the Non-profit organization
2. Non-profit organization was donated the money (by them)

Verbs with two objects: Example #4

One object: He told the story

Two obj.: He told the story to the children

or

He told the children the story

1. The story was told to the children
2. The children were told the story (by him)

I don't like being... Ex #1

Active: I do not like people **telling** me what to do

Passive: I do not like **being** told what to do

Verb (ing) > being verb (participle)
doing/seeing > being done/seen

Active: They don't like people **asking** them questions

Passive: They don't like **being asked** questions

I don't like being... Ex #1

Active: I remember somebody giving me a gift

Passive: I remember being given a gift (~~by sb~~)

Active: Mr. Miller do not like people keeping him busy

Passive: Mr. Miller hates being kept busy

Active into Passive

1. They had finished the work by the end of 1997.
2. George Orwell wrote some famous books.
3. They are going to sell refreshments.
4. You must clean the house.
5. They couldn't use the car because the garage was servicing it.
6. His friends will probably play many games tomorrow.
7. Newton discovered the law of gravity.
8. They drank a lot of alcohol at the party.
9. When did he make this mistake?
10. Dolly wrote these letters last week.
11. Jill feeds the little dogs.
12. How often do your teachers ask you?
13. Sam has just bought a new hat.