

Active Voice and Passive Voice

In grammar “Voice” refers to the form of the verb which indicates whether the subject performs the action or is the receiver of the action. There are two types of voices in the English grammar:

- **Active Voice:** when the subject of a sentence is the doer or the actor, the verb is in the active voice.
 - Formula for the active voice: **Subject+ basic form of tense+ object**
Ex: Ilina **invited** Tom to her birthday party.

- **Passive Voice:** when the subject of a sentence is acted upon and the undergoer of the action, the verb is said to be in the passive voice.
 - Formula for the passive voice: **Subject (object of the active voice+ passive form of tense+ by+ object (subject of the active voice)**
Ex: Tom **was invited** to her birthday party.

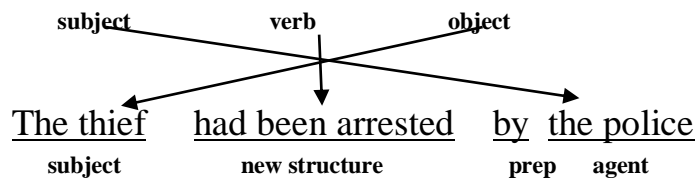
1. When to use passive voice?

- When we are more interested in the action than the person who does the action..
- When we don't know who performed the action or it's unnecessary to mention it.

2. Active to passive:

- ✚ The **object** of the active voice sentence becomes the **subject** of the passive voice sentence.
- ✚ Add the auxiliary “**to be**” and put it to the same tense as the main verb in the active voice. Change the main verb of the active sentence into **past participle**.
- ✚ The **subject** of the active voice sentence becomes **the agent** of the passive voice sentence. It is preceded by the preposition “**by**”

Example: The police had arrested the thief



Module: English

3. Forms of passive voice tenses:

Verb tense	Verb structure in passive voice	Active voice	Passive voice
Present simple	Is/are+ past participle	Pierre Matie designs her dress	Her dress is designed by Pierre Matie
Past simple	was/were+ past participle	Pierre Matie designed her dress	Her dress was designed by Pierre Matie
Present continuous	Is/are being+ past participle	Pierre Matie is designing her dress	Her dress is being designed by Pierre Matie
Past continuous	was/were being+ past participle	Pierre Matie was designig her dress	Her dress was being designed by Pierre Matie
Future simple	Will be+ past participle	Pierre Matie will design her dress	Her dress will be designed by Pierre Matie
Present Perfect	Have/ has+ been + past participle	Pierre Matie has designed her dress	Her dress has been designed by Pierre Matie
Past perfect	had+ been + past participle	Pierre Matie had designed her dress	Her dress had been designed by Pierre Matie
Future perfect	will have+ been + past participle	Pierre Matie will have designed her dress	Her dress will have been designed by Pierre Matie
Perfect conditional	Would have + been + past participle	Pierre Matie would have designed her dress	Her dress would have been designed by Pierre Matie
Modals (must/ might/should/can/ could/shall/will would/ have to/ought to	Modal + be +past past participle	Pierre Matie must design her dress	Her dress must be designed by Pierre Matie

Notes:

- a. No object no passive.
- b. “by + agent” is omitted when it adds nothing to the sentence.
- c. Put “with” rather than “by” when dealing with materials, objects, and instruments.
- d. An imperative sentence in the passive voice has the following form: Let + object + be + past participle: throw the ball —→let the ball be thrown
- e. The subject pronoun in active voice becomes an object pronoun in passive voice.

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Subject Pronoun	Object Pronoun
I	Me
She	Her
He	Him
It	It
We	Us
You	You
They	Them

Activity 01: change these active sentences to passive:

1. The traffic might have delayed Jimmy.
2. Scientists have discovered traces of ice on the surface.
3. Have you finished the report?
4. Someone painted the office last week.
5. The traffic warden had already given him a ticket for illegal parking.
6. They have changed the date of the meeting.
7. Doctor Simms is examining her.
8. The prime minister will give a medal to the winners.
9. Shut the door?

activity 02: rewrite the following sentences differently:

1. Lunch was being served when we arrived.
2. English has been taught by him for ten years.
3. You are ordered not to come late to class.
4. If I had had a million dollars, I would have built a big house.