



Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo

Escuela Superior de Tizayuca



Área Académica: Licenciatura en Turismo.

Tema: Passive voice

Profesor: E.T.E. Alejandra Guevara Escobedo

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Tema: Passive voice

Abstract

Students need to know grammar structures in order to communicate well.

This is a basic tense.

Keywords: Passive voice, active voice

PASSIVE VOICE

We have listed active and passive forms in the following table. We used the phrase **I drive** and have put this phrase into most common tenses.

Active (Simple Forms)

Simple Present	I drive
Simple Past	I drove
Present Perfect	I have driven
Past Perfect	I had driven
will-future	I will drive
Future Perfect	I will have driven
Conditional I	I would drive
Conditional II	I would have driven





Active (Progressive/Continuous Forms)

Simple Present

I am driving

Simple Past

I was driving

Present Perfect

I have been driving

Past Perfect

I had been driving

will-future

I will be driving

Future Perfect

I will have been driving

Conditional I

I would be driving

Conditional II

I would have been driving





Passive (Simple Forms)

Simple Present

I am driven

Simple Past

I was driven

Present Perfect

I have been driven

Past Perfect

I had been driven

will-future

I will be driven

Future Perfect

I will have been driven

Conditional I

I would be driven

Conditional II

I would have been driven





Passive (Progressive/Continuous Forms)

Present

I am being driven

Past

I was being driven

Present Perfect ¹

I have been being driven

Past Perfect ¹

I had been being driven

Future ¹

I will be being driven

Future Perfect ¹

I will have been being driven

Conditional I ¹

I would be being driven

Conditional II ¹

I would have been being driven



BY AGENT-PASSIVE

We are normally not interested in the "doer" of an action in a passive sentence. When we want to mention the "doer", we use the preposition **by**. The whole phrase is called **by-agent** in English.

Active sentence	Passive sentence
Mr Brown built the house.	The house was built by Mr Brown.

When we do not know, **who** was the "doer" of the action, we use **someone** or **somebody** in the active sentence. We leave out these words in the passive sentence.

Active sentence	Passive sentence
Someone stole my bike.	My bike was stolen.

HOW TO FORM THE PASSIVE

Passive – Use

We only use the passive when we are interested in the object or when we do not know who caused the action.

Example: Appointments are required in such cases.

We can only form a passive sentence from an active sentence when there is an object in the active sentence.

Form

to be + past participle

How to form a passive sentence when an active sentence is given:

- object of the "active" sentence becomes subject in the "passive" sentence
- subject of the "active" sentence becomes "object" in the "passive" sentence (or is left out)

Active: Peter builds a house.



Passive: A house is built by Peter.

Examples

Active: Peter builds a house.

Simple Present

Passive: A house is built by Peter



Active:	Peter	built	a house.	Simple Past
Passive:	A house	was built	by Peter	

Active:	Peter	has built	a house.	Present Perfect
Passive:	A house	has been built	by Peter	

Active:	Peter	will build	a house.	will-future
Passive:	A house	will be built	by Peter.	

Active:	Peter	can build	a house.	Modals
Passive:	A house	can be built	by Peter.	

PASSIVE SENTENCES

TENSE	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Simple Present	Peter builds a house.	A house is built by Peter.
Simple Past	Peter built a house.	A house was built by Peter.
Present Perfect	Peter has built a house.	A house has been built by Peter.
Past Perfect	Peter had built a house.	A house had been built by Peter.
will-future	Peter will build a house.	A house will be built by Peter.
going to-future	Peter is going to build a house in summer.	A house is going to be built in summer by Peter.



PERSONAL PASSIVE- IMPERSONAL PASSIVE

1) Personal Passive

When we put an object of an active sentence into passive, it becomes subject of the passive sentence.

- Active voice:
The professor explained the students the exercise.
The professor explained the exercise to the students.
- Passive voice:
The students were explained the exercise.
The exercise was explained to the students.

We sometimes use a pronoun for "the students" or "the exercise" in its subject form (here: they/it).

Passive voice:
They were explained the exercise.
It was explained to the students.

We very often leave out the by-agent in the passive sentence (here: by the professor).



2) Impersonal Passive - It is said ...

The phrase It is said ... is an impersonal passive construction. We often use it in news.

- Passive sentence - version 1:
It is said that children are afraid of ghosts.
- Passive sentence - version 2:
Children are said to be afraid of ghosts.

The correct active sentence would be:

Active sentence: People say that children are afraid of ghosts

QUESTIONS IN PASSIVE

1a. Questions without question words in Passive (Simple Present)

Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Yes/No	Subject	Auxiliary (+ n't)
Is	the test	written	in room 311?	Yes,	it	is.
				No,	it	is not.
				No,	it	isn't.
Are	grapes	grown	in California?	Yes,	they	are.
				No,	they	are not.
				No,	they	aren't.



1b. Questions with question words in Passive (Simple Present)

Question word	Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Answer
Where	is	the test	written ?		The test is written in room 311.
Why	are	grapes	grown	in California?	Grapes are grown in California because it's warm and sunny.



2a. Questions without question words in Passive (Simple Past)

Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Yes/No	Subject	Auxiliary (+ n't)
Was	the book	taken	to the classroom?	Yes,	it	was.
				No,	it	was not.
				No,	it	wasn't.
Were	the students	taught	at home?	Yes,	they	were.
				No,	they	were not.
				No,	they	weren't.

2b. Questions with question words in Passive (Simple Past)

Question word	Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Answer
Where	was	the book	taken?		The book was taken to the classroom.
Why	were	the students	taught	at home?	The students were taught at home because the school was closed.



Here are some more example in other tenses. Let's start with the Simple froms:

Tense	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb
Present Perfect	Has	the house	been built?
Past Perfect	Had	the house	been built?
will-future	Will	the house	be built?
going to-future	Is	the house	going to be built?
Future Perfect	Will	the house	have been built?
Conditional I	Would	the house	be built?
Conditional II	Would	the house	have been built?

And now two Progressive forms:

Tense	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb
Present Progressive	Is	the house	being built?
Past Progressive	Was	the house	being built?

VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS IN PASSIVE

When we put an active sentence, where a preposition follows after the verb (e.g. break into, look after), into passive - the preposition remains immediately after the verb.

Active sentence	Passive sentence
Someone broke into the pet shop.	The pet shop was broken into.



Taken from:

- http://www.english-hilfen.de/en/grammar/active_passive.htm