

PASSIVE VOICE FORM

verb 'to be' (in the appropriate tense) + past participle

USE: We use the passive voice when:

- the action is more important than the person who does it. The painting **will be displayed** at the National Gallery.

- the person who does the action is unknown or obvious. The statue **was stolen** last week. (unknown)

The play **will be performed** in an open-air theatre. (by the actors – obvious)

- we want to avoid saying who did something wrong. The CD player **is broken**. (more polite than: You broke my CD)

CHANGING FROM ACTIVE TO PASSIVE

Step 1: the object of the sentence in the active **becomes subject** in the passive.

- the passive structure is formed by

Step 2: using the verb "be" in the same tense as the verb in the active sentence followed by

Step 3: the past participle of the active verb.

Step 4: the subject of the active sentence becomes the agent and is introduced using the preposition **by** or is omitted.

➤ **With + instrument/material/ingredient** is used to say what the agent used.

The agent is not omitted when it is a specific or important person, or when it's **essential** to the meaning.

e.g. Comedies are enjoyed **by people of all ages**

ACTIVE: Vivaldi composed 'The Four Seasons'.

PASSIVE: 'The Four Seasons' was composed by Vivaldi

Present Simple: play – **is / are** played

Present Continuous: is / are composing – **is / are being** composed

Past Simple: sang – **was / were** sung

Past Continuous: was / were collecting – **was / were being** collected

Future: will direct – **will be** directed

Present Perfect: has / have painted – **has / have been** painted

Past Perfect: had sculpted – **had been** sculpted

➤ With verbs which can take two objects, such as **bring, tell, send, show, teach, promise etc.**, we can **form two different passive sentences**.

- She **sent** me an email (active) I **was sent** an email (passive – more common)

An email **was sent** to me (passive – less common)

- The verbs **hear, help, see and make** are followed by a bare infinitive in the active, but a to-infinitive in the passive.

Mum **made me** Hoover the rug. (**active**)

I **was made to** Hoover the rug. (**passive**)

A. Change from active to passive.

1. Mr. Lee manages the sales department

.....

2. The students are painting the walls now

.....

3. Three masked men robbed the bank

.....

4. The secretary types all the reports

.....

5. My son himself saw the accident

.....

6. The government will introduce a new law

.....

7. Mary has left a message for you

.....

8. They hadn't received my letter yet

.....

9. John paid the bill at the restaurant last night

.....

10. The fire destroyed half of the town

.....

11. Bob sent me a gold bracelet on my birthday

.....

12. They were discussing the rules of the game

.....

- 13.

B. Fill in **by** or **with**.

1. Harry Potter was written J. K. Rowling.

2. The glass window was carved a special tool.

3. Music will be played a local band.

4. The script writer revealed that the hero will be stabbed a knife at the end of the play.

5. The song will be sung a church choir.

Impersonal /Personal Passive constructions

The verbs **believe, expect, consider, expect, know, report, say, think**, etc. have both personal and impersonal constructions in the passive.

Active: People **expect** that Adele will sing the song.

Passive: It **is expected** that Adele will sing the song. (*impersonal construction*)

Adele **is expected** **to sing** the song. (*personal construction*)

Active: They **say** he **was** a brilliant musician.

Passive: It **is said** that he **was** a brilliant musician. (*impersonal construction*)

He **is said** **to have been** a brilliant musician. (*personal construction*)