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Rules:


There are two ways to express an action of a subject in relation to its object

- Active voice
- Passive voice
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In “active voice” subject acts upon object, while in “passive voice” object is acted upon by subject. It can also be said, in “active voice” subject does a work on object, while in “passive voice” object is worked on by subject. The normal structure of an active voice sentence is **subject+verb+object** but in passive the normal structure of sentence is reversed according to certain rules and becomes like **object+verb+subject**. The real meaning of a sentence does not change if the sentence is expressed either by active voice or by passive voice. The **active voice** is mostly used in writing because it gives a direct and more

PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE

	SUBJECT	ACTION	OBJECT
ACTIVE	Mountains	surrounded	the village
PASSIVE	The village	was surrounded	by mountains



- Form the past simple passive with the past simple form of the verb to be (was, were) and the past participle of the main verb
- The object of the active sentences becomes the subject of the passive sentences
- Use by + person or thing after the passive to include the object

Complete the sentences using WAS or WERE:

- The hills _____ seen by many travellers
- This house _____ built in 1997
- The e-mails _____ sent by my partner not by me
- The match _____ finished five minutes earlier
- These medals _____ won by the best players
- My town _____ attacked several times

Complete using the past simple passive form of the verbs in the box:
INVENT - INVESTIGATE - BUY - EAT - FEED - CLEAN

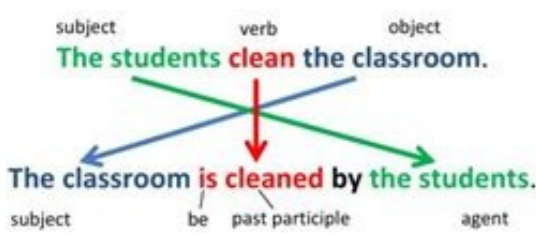
- Those cds _____ by Lawrence
- All the windows _____ this week.
- Her cake _____ by all the guests
- The telephone _____ many years ago.
- Hungry dogs _____ by the shop assistants.
- This famous town _____ by many scientists.

Make these active sentences passive:

- They gave Mimi some flowers. _____
- Madonna sang famous songs. _____
- They offered Jane a well-paid job. _____
- Her parents promised Ann a great birthday present. _____
- Alexander Bell invented the telephone _____
- I took lots of beautiful pictures _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS


THE PASSIVE VOICE



Forms of TO BE:

- 1) Present simple: IS/ARE**
Bees produce honey. – Honey is produced by bees.
Ants make anthills. – Anthills are made by ants.
- 2) Present continuous: IS BEING/ARE BEING**
We are fulfilling the task. – The task is being fulfilled.
They are exploring new areas. – New areas are being explored.
- 3) Past simple: WAS/WERE**
Someone broke the window yesterday. – The window was broken yesterday.
Someone unleashed the dogs. – The dogs were unleashed.
- 4) Past continuous: WAS BEING/WERE BEING**
They were praising the girl. – The girl was being praised.
They were taking pictures. – Pictures were being taken.
- 5) Present perfect: HAS BEEN/HAVE BEEN**
Someone has made a hole in the fence. – A hole has been made in the fence.
They have explored new areas. – New areas have been explored.
- 6) Future simple: WILL BE**
They will laugh at me again. – I will be laughed at again.
They will humiliate you again. – You will be humiliated again.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



The Passive Voice


A passive sentence consist of,

- ✓ The subject
- ✓ The verb to be in the correct tense.
- ✓ The past participle of the verb needed.
- ✓ Sometimes, the agent and/or other complements

Subject + verb + "to be" + Past participle

- The novel was read by Mom in one day.
- This film wasn't liked by no one.
- The windows had been broken.

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Passive Voice Examples & Exercises – Present / Past

Passive Voice: Definition
In the active voice, the subject of the sentence DOES the action:
• John painted the house last week.
Subject / verb / object
In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence RECEIVES the action.
• The house was painted last week.
Subject / verb
Notice that the object of the active sentence (house) became the subject of the passive sentence.

Passive Voice: Use
The passive voice is used when:

- 1. We do not know who did the action**
Example: The documents were stolen.
(we don't know who stole the documents)
- 2. The receiver of the action is more important**
Example: The pyramids were built nearly 5,000 years ago by the ancient Egyptians.
(we want to emphasize "pyramids" more than "ancient Egyptians")

Passive Voice: Form
To change an active voice sentence to a passive voice sentence:

1. Make the object of the active sentence into the subject of the passive sentence.

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