

PASSIVE VOICE

We use Active Voice to say *what the Subject does*.

My father is a carpenter. He *made* this table when he was 31 years old.

We use Passive Voice to say *what happens to the Subject*.

This table was made by my father when he was 31 years old.

SIMPLE PRESENT, SIMPLE PAST and SIMPLE FUTURE

The active object becomes the passive subject.

am/is/are + past participle

was/were + past participle

will + be + past participle

is/are going to be + past participle

Simple Present Active:

The movie fascinates me.

The movie bores Jack.

The movie surprises them.

Simple Present Passive:

I am fascinated by the movie.

Jack is bored by the movie.

They are surprised by the movie.

Simple Past Active:

The movie bored me.

The movie fascinated Jack.

The movie surprised them.

Simple Past Passive:

I was bored by the movie.

Jack was fascinated by the movie.

They were surprised by the movie.

Future with WILL Active:

I will mail the gift.

Jack will mail the gifts.

Future with WILL Passive:

The gift will be mailed by me.

The gifts will be mailed by Jack.

Future with GOING TO Active:

I am going to make the cake.

Sue is going to make two cakes.

Future with GOING TO Passive:

The cake is going to be made by me.

Two cakes are going to be made by Sue.

PRESENT and PAST CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE)

Passive form:

am/is/are + being + past participle

was/were + being + past participle

Present Continuous Active:

I am helping Shannon.

June is helping Su and Ling.

Present Continuous Passive:

Shannon is being helped by me.

Su and Ling are being helped by June.

Past Continuous Active:

I was cleaning the bathroom.

They were cleaning the bedroom.

Susan was cleaning the kitchen and patio.

Past Continuous Passive:

The bathroom was being cleaned by me.

The bedroom was being cleaned by them.

The kitchen and patio were being cleaned by Susan.

PRESENT PERFECT, PAST PERFECT and FUTURE PERFECT

Passive form:

have/has been + past participle
had been + past participle

Present Perfect Active:

I have mailed the postcard.
Jason has mailed the postcards.

Present Perfect Passive:

The postcard has been mailed by me.
The postcards have been mailed by Jack.

Past Perfect Active:

Steven Spielberg had directed the movie.
Penny Marshall had directed those movies.

Past Perfect Passive:

The movie had been directed by Steven Spielberg.
The movies had been directed by Penny Marshall.

Future Perfect Active:

John will have finished the project next month.
They will have finished the projects before then.

Future Perfect Passive:

The project will have been finished by next month.
The projects will have been finished before then.

PRESENT/FUTURE MODALS

The passive form follows this pattern:
modal + be + past participle

WILL / WON'T (WILL NOT) Active:

Sharon will invite Tom to the party.
Sharon won't invite Jeff to the party.
(Sharon will not invite Jeff to the party.)

WILL / WON'T (WILL NOT) Passive:

Tom will be invited to the party by Sharon.
Jeff won't be invited to the party by Sharon.
(Jeff will not be invited to the party by Sharon.)

CAN / CAN'T (CAN NOT) Active:

Mai can foretell the future.
Terry can't foretell the future.
(Terry can not foretell the future.)

CAN / CAN'T (CAN NOT) Passive:

The future can be foretold by Mai.
The future can't be foretold by Terry.
(The future can not be foretold by Terry.)

MAY / MAY NOT and MIGHT / MIGHT NOT Active:

That company may offer Katya a new contract.
That company might offer Katya a new contract.

The lazy students may not do the homework.
The lazy students might not do the homework.

MAY / MAY NOT and MIGHT / MIGHT NOT Passive:

Katya may be offered a new contract.
Katya might be offered a new contract.
The homework may not be done by the lazy students.
The homework might not be done by the lazy students.

SHOULD / SHOULDN'T Active:

Students should memorize English verbs.
Children shouldn't smoke cigarettes.

SHOULD / SHOULDN'T Passive:

English verbs should be memorized by students.
Cigarettes shouldn't be smoked by children.

MUST / MUST NOT Active:

Tourists must apply for a passport to travel.
Customers must not use that door.

MUST / MUST NOT Passive:

A passport to travel must be applied for.
That door must not be used by customers.

HAS TO / DOESN'T HAVE TO and HAVE TO / DON'T HAVE TO Active:

She has to practice English every day.
Maria doesn't have to clean her bedroom every day.
Sara and Miho have to wash the dishes every day.
The kids don't have to clean their bedrooms every day.

HAS TO / DOESN'T HAVE TO and HAVE TO / DON'T HAVE TO Passive:

English has to be practiced every day.
Her bedroom doesn't have to be cleaned every day.
The dishes have to be washed by them every day.
Their bedrooms don't have to be cleaned every day.

Section 1

Complete the following sentences using the verb in the parenthesis in passive voice:

1. Many accidents _____ (cause) by drunk drivers.
2. Butter _____ (make) from cream.
3. The front of the shop _____ (paint) a few weeks ago.
4. In Australia, elections for Prime Minister _____ (hold) every three years.
5. She _____ (invite) to the wedding. I wondered why she didn't go?
6. You don't need to leave a tip. Service _____ (include) in the bill.
7. Originally this article _____ (write) in Latin and a few centuries later it _____ (translate) into English.
8. They were driving along the freeway quite fast but they _____ (pass) by lots of other drivers.
9. Lots of interesting films _____ (show) at the Village Cinemas.
10. Toyota is a big factory. hundreds of people _____ (employ) there.
11. While Mary was shopping at the market, her purse _____ (steal) from her handbag.
12. Both David and Robert _____ (fire) from their jobs. I wonder what they had done wrong.
13. The Werribee Park gates _____ (lock) at 6.00 pm every night.
14. This company is independent. It _____ (not own) by any larger company.

Section 2

Complete the following sentences, use passive voice only when necessary:

1. My sister _____ (be born) in England but she _____ (grow up) in Australia.
2. The Titanic _____ (sink) quite quickly and only some of her passengers _____ (rescue).
3. The merchandise _____ (send) two months ago and it only _____ (arrive) yesterday.
4. Ronnie's parents _____ (die) when he was only 6 years old. Both he and his sister _____ (raise) by their aunt.

5. When Sharon was on holiday in Bali, her new video recorder _____ (disappear) from her hotel room.
6. They saw an accident last night. One of the passers-by _____ (want) to call an ambulance but nobody _____ (injure) so it _____ (not need).
7. Most of the Earth's surface _____ (cover) by water. While land _____ (occupy) only one quarter.

Section 3

Invent questions using passive voice. Some of the questions are present and some are past.

Use the ideas in the parenthesis:

Ex:

Ask about television. (**when/invent?**)

When was television invented?

1. Ask about Australia. (**who/discover?**)
2. Ask about airplane. (**when/invent?**)
3. Ask about Hong Kong. (**when/hand back to China?**)
4. Ask about gold. (**what/use for?**)
5. Ask about America. (**who/discover?**)