The Passive Voice

When do we use the passive voice?

- We use the passive voice if the action and its receiver are more important than the doer. (The doer in unknown or not mentioned).
- The focus is on the result rather than the performer.
- The receiver of the action becomes the subject of the sentence.

Simple Present Passive

Exams are written by professional teachers.

- Can you elicit the form of the simple present passive used in the example above?
- Give more examples!

Remember that this tense is used to talk about routines, habits, general information in the present and facts.

Form (the present simple passive)

<u>1</u>S

The plants are watered daily.

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Subject (the receiver + am + the past participle of of the action) the verb
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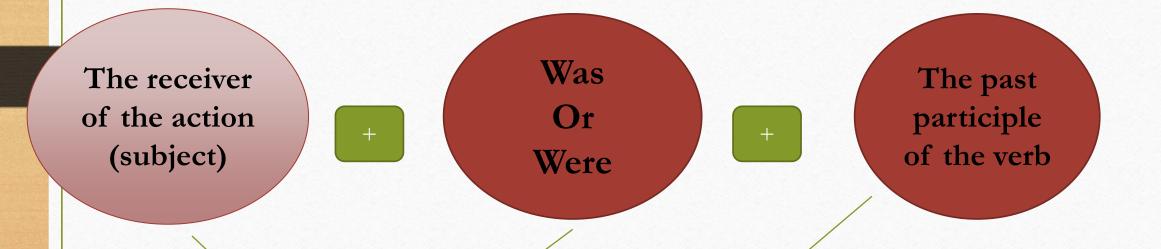
Simple Past Passive voice.

• The pictures were taken last summer.

• Can you elicit the rule of the simple past passive used in the sentence above?

• Remember that this tense is used to talk about an action that started and ended in the past. We usually know when the action ended.

Form (Simple Past Passive)



The house was cleaned yesterday.

Present continuous (Passive Voice)

• I am being taught how to pronounce the word.

• Can you elicit the rule?

• The present continuous is used to talk about actions that are happening at the moment.



• The receiver of the action (subject)



Is Am Are



being



The past participle of the verb

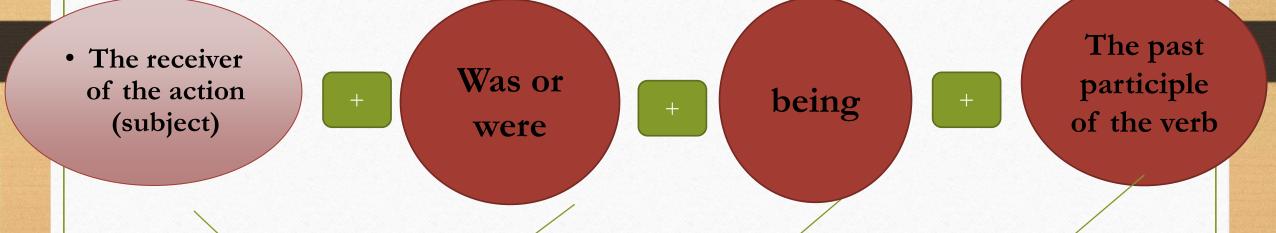
The car is being washed.

The Past continuous Passive

- The answers were being explained by the teacher.
- Can you elicit the rule?

Remember that this tense is used to talk about an action that was happening at a particular time in the past.

Form (the past continuous passive)



Marks were being given

Present Perfect Passive

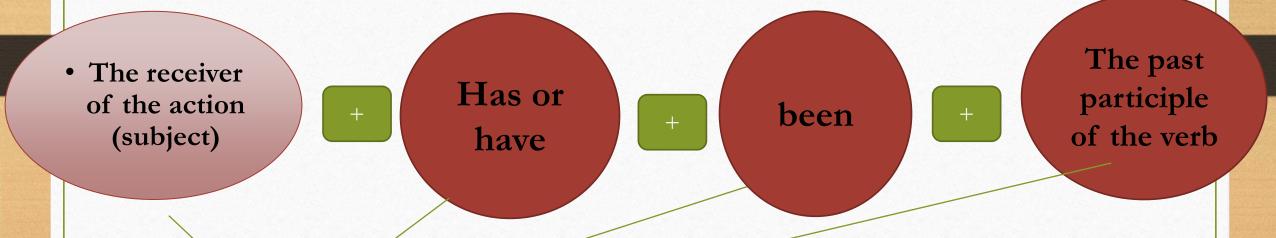
• This country has been occupied for 70 years.

• Can you elicit rule?

The present perfect is used to talk about actions that started in the past and continued up to the present.

It is also used to talk about experiences.

Form (the present perfect passive)



This site has been criticized by many tourists.

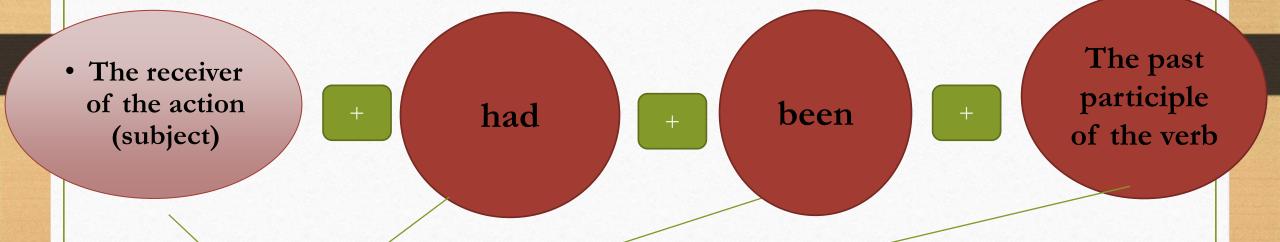
The Past Perfect Passive

- The past perfect is used to talk about an action that happened before another in the past.
- Notice the difference between the following two sentences:
- -I noticed that he had left his books.

-I noticed that the books had been left.

Which one is in the passive voice?

Form (the past perfect passive)



The room had been cleaned; it looks nice!

PASSIVE VOICE - ALL TENSES

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ACTIVE

PASSIVE

They take the photos	PRESENT SIMPLE	The photos are taken
They are taking the photos	PRESENT CONTINU.	The photos are being taken
They have taken the photos	PRESENT PERFECT	The photos have been taken
They took the photos	PAST SIMPLE	The photos were taken
They were taking the photos	PAST CONTINUOUS	The photos were being taken
They had taken the photos	PAST PERFECT	The photos had been taken
They will take the photos	FUTURE	The photos will be taken
They are going to take the photos	BE GOING TO	The photos are going to be taken
They will have taken the photos	FUTURE PERFECT	The photos will have been taken
to take	INFINITIVE	to be taken
to have taken	PERFECT INFINITIVE	to have been taken
taking	GERUND	being taken
t e s t -	e nglis	h 🕳 c o m

modals in PASSIVE voice

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subject + may + BE + past participle
might
can
could
must
should
have to
need to
ought to
(be) supposed to
(be) able to
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