

# The Passive Voice

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# When do we use the passive voice?

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- We use the passive voice if the action and its receiver are more important than the doer. (The doer is 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

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- 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)

is

Subject (the receiver  
of the action) + am + the past participle of  
the verb

are

The plants are watered daily.

# Simple Past Passive voice.

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- 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 receiver  
of the action  
(subject)

+

Was  
Or  
Were

+

The past  
participle  
of the verb

The house was cleaned yesterday.

# Present continuous (Passive Voice)

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- 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.

# Form (the present continuous)

- 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

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- **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)

- The receiver of the action (subject)

+

Was or  
were

+

being

+

The past  
participle  
of the verb

Marks were being given

# Present Perfect Passive

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- 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)

- The receiver of the action (subject)

+

Has or  
have

+

been

+

The past  
participle  
of the verb

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 receiver of the action (subject)

+

had

+

been

+

The past participle of the verb

The room had been cleaned; it looks nice!

# PASSIVE VOICE – ALL TENSES

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## ACTIVE

They **take** the photos

They **are taking** the photos

They **have taken** the photos

They **took** the photos

They **were taking** the photos

They **had taken** the photos

They **will take** the photos

They **are going to take** the photos

They **will have taken** the photos

**to take**

**to have taken**

**taking**

**PRESENT SIMPLE**

**PRESENT CONTINU.**

**PRESENT PERFECT**

**PAST SIMPLE**

**PAST CONTINUOUS**

**PAST PERFECT**

**FUTURE**

**BE GOING TO**

**FUTURE PERFECT**

**INFINITIVE**

**PERFECT INFINITIVE**

**GERUND**

## PASSIVE

The photos **are** **taken**

The photos **are being** **taken**

The photos **have been** **taken**

The photos **were** **taken**

The photos **were being** **taken**

The photos **had been** **taken**

The photos **will be** **taken**

The photos **are going to be** **taken**

The photos **will have been** **taken**

**to be** **taken**

**to have been** **taken**

**being** **taken**

## modals in *PASSIVE* voice

**subject + may + *BE* + past participle**

**might**

**can**

**could**

**must**

**should**

**have to**

**need to**

**ought to**

**(be) supposed to**

**(be) able to**