

English Grammar Class 7

The Active and Passive Voice

This article will give you an idea of active and passive voice. We will learn about the rules which are used to change the voice from active to passive and vice-versa. Examples of voices are also included for a better understanding of the concept. Tense forms also play important role in voice, we will understand them, in the following chapter by examples. So, let's start the amazing journey of grammar.

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VOICE

Image: Introduction of voice

Voice

Before learning about active and passive voice, let's first learn about voice. So, the form of changing or transforming verbs that include both transitive (a verb that requires an object) and intransitive (a verb that requires no object as a receiver) verbs are used to indicate the subject of the sentence is the doer or the action done on the subject is a voice.

There are Two Types of Voice:

- Active voice
- Passive voice

Let's discuss them one by one:



Image: Active and Passive Voice

Active Voice

A firm, distinct tone can be heard in the active voice. The verb is written in the active voice when the subject acts as the agent or performer. Typically, the subject of an active voice sentence is the thing or person that the verb is acting upon. All tenses and sentence structures, including positive, negative, and question-oriented sentences, are possible in the active voice.

The term "default" voice in English refers to the active voice. All transitive verbs, unless we choose to make them passive on purpose, are normally spoken in the active voice, as are all intransitive verbs, which can only be articulated in the active voice.

Examples of Active Voice:

- Neha wrote a letter to her mother.
- I love my cat.
- His mother beat him.
- The cat chased the mouse.
- We played football.

Passive Voice

Passive voice is not commonly used in communication. When a target or the person is subjected to action, this is referred to as passive voice. The statement is always written in the passive form by fusing the verb's past participle with a conjugated form of the verb to be.

Examples of Passive Voice:

- The letter was written by Neha.
- My cat is loved by me.
- He is beaten by his mother.

- The mouse was chased by the cat.
- The football was played by us.

Rules to Change the Voice

- The object of the active voice sentence becomes the subject of the passive voice when a verb is transformed from active voice to passive voice.
- The pronoun's nominative case is transformed into an objective case.
- Put the proper form of "to be" (is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being) before the verb in the third form, according to the number (singular/plural) of the new subject and the tense of the main verb in the passive voice.
- When referring to the action's doer, by is used. However, it must be remembered that the preposition "by" and the agent are omitted when the action is crucial and the agent is secondary.
- Passive voice is only possible in eight tenses. The three perfect continuous tenses and the future continuous tense do not have passive forms.

Relation Between the Voice and Tenses

Simple Present Tense:

In the simple present tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+V(first form)+O, and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+is/am/are+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- I do this(active voice).
- This is done by me(passive voice).

Simple Past Tense:

In the simple past tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+V(second form)/did V(first form)+O and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+was/were+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- Neha wrote a letter(active voice).
- A letter was written by Neha. (passive voice).
- Who told you this? (active voice)
- By whom was this told? (passive voice)

Simple Future Tense:

In the simple future tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+shall/will V(first form)+O and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+shall be/will be+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- I will do this. (active voice)

- This will be done by me. (passive voice)

Present Continuous Tense:

In the present continuous tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+is/am/are+ V(fourth form)+O and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+is/am/are being+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- Shruti is telling a story. (active voice)
- A story is being told by Shruti. (passive voice)

Past Continuous Tense:

In the past continuous tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+was/were+ V(fourth form)+O and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+was/were being+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- Mom was making dinner. (active voice)
- Dinner was made by mom. (passive voice)

Present Perfect Tense:

In the present perfect tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+has/have+ V(third form)+O and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+has been/have been+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- We have won the bet. (active voice)
- The best was won by us. (passive voice)

Past Perfect Tense:

In the past perfect tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+had+ V(third form)+O, and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+had been+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- I had taken a few minutes to break. (active voice)
- Few minutes were taken as a break by me. (passive voice)

Future Perfect Tense:

In the future perfect tense, Active voices have sentence forms like S+shall have/will have+ V(third form)+O and Passive voices have sentence forms like S+shall/will have been+V(third form)+by+O

Examples:

- She will have received a book. (Active Voice)
- A book will have been received by her. (Passive Voice)

Note: In the above tenses, the meaning of ‘S’, ‘O’, and ‘V’ is subject, object, and verb respectively.

Difficult Words with Meanings

Word	Meaning
Different	Distinct
Continue	Progress
Convenient	Easy

Summary

In this chapter, we learned about the voice, its two forms, and the rules to change the voice. Voice depends on the action of the subject and the time. Also, we had seen the change in the voice with the change in the tense. We also have seen several examples of different tenses and voice changes. In daily life, we primarily use active voice as it is very convenient, while passive is not that much used in daily life.

Practice Questions:

Convert the given sentences into Passive Voice:

1. We shall eat the cake.
2. He has bought a new house.
3. He had bought a new house.
4. Will you buy ice cream?
5. You were wasting water.

Answers:

1. The cake will have been eaten by us.
2. He had bought a new house.
3. A new house has been bought by him.
4. Will this ice cream be bought by you?
5. Water is wasted by you.