

Active and Passive Voice

1. Basic Definition and Concept

- Voice is a grammatical category that shows the relationship between the subject and the verb in a sentence.
- Active Voice: Used when the subject of the sentence is the doer or performer of the action.
 - Structure: Subject + Verb + Object
 - Example: `Rahul plays cricket.` (Rahul is doing the action)
 - Passive Voice: Used when the subject of the sentence is the receiver of the action.
 - Structure: Object (becomes Subject) + `be` + V3 (Past Participle) + `by` + Subject (becomes Object)
 - Example: `Cricket is played by Rahul.` (Cricket is receiving the action)

Key Insight: Don't identify voice by looking at the subject alone. Always look for the structure of the verb. If you see a form of verb (is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being) + the past participle (V3) of the main verb, it is passive voice.

2. When Can a Sentence be Converted to Passive Voice?

- A sentence can only be converted from active to passive if it has a Transitive Verb.
 - Transitive Verb: A verb that requires a direct object to complete its meaning.
 - Example: `She eats an apple.` (These can be made passive: An apple is eaten by her.)
- Intransitive Verb: A verb that does not take a direct object.
 - Example: `I am going to America.` / `He sleeps.` (These cannot be made passive because there is no object to become the new subject).
- Linking Verbs: Verbs like `is`, `seem`, `appear`, `become`, `feel`, `look`, `smell`, `taste` are followed by a subject complement, not an object. Sentences with these verbs cannot be made passive.
 - Example: `Flowers smell sweet.` / `She is beautiful.` (Here, "sweet" and "beautiful" are adjectives describing the subject, not objects receiving an action).

3. The Fundamental Rule of Conversion

When changing a sentence from Active to Passive voice:

1. The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
2. The subject of the active sentence becomes the object, usually preceded by `by`.
3. The verb changes to a form of `be` + the past participle (V3) of the main verb.
4. The Tense of the verb does not change. The form of `be` is chosen to match the original tense.

4. Structure and Tense-wise Conversion (Active to Passive)

The core structure for Passive Voice is always: be + V3. The form of 'be' changes according to the tense.

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice	Example (Active)	Example (Passive)
Simple Present	V1 / Vs	am / is / are + V3	Boys love animals.	Animals are loved by boys.
Present Continuous	is / am / are + V+ing	is / am / are + being + V3	Radhika is singing a song.	A song is being sung by Radhika.
Present Perfect	have / has + V3	have / has + been + V3	You have written a letter.	A letter has been written by you.
Present Perfect Continuous*	have / has been + V+ing	have / has + been + being + V3	You have been writing a letter since morning.	A letter has been being written by you since morning.
Simple Past	V2	was / were + V3	He built the house.	The house was built by him.
Past Continuous	was / were + V+ing	was / were + being + V3	The children were making noise.	Noise was being made by the children.
Past Perfect	had + V3	had + been + V3	The girl had stolen the book.	The book had been stolen by the girl.
Future (Simple)	will / shall + V1	will / shall + be + V3	The postman will deliver the letter.	The letter will be delivered by the postman.
Future Perfect	will / shall + have + V3	will / shall + have + been + V3	They will have deposited the money.	The money will have been deposited by them.
Modals	Modal (can, must, etc.) + V1	Modal (can, must, etc.) + be + V3	You must help the poor.	The poor must be helped by you.

5. Conversion of Interrogative (Question) Sentences

- A. Yes/No Questions (Starting with a helping verb like do, does, did, is, am, are, has, have, etc.)
 - Rule: The structure changes just like an assertive sentence, but the passive sentence retains its interrogative form.
 - Active: 'Do you read this book?'
 - Passive: 'Is this book read by you?'
 - Active: 'Has he written a letter?'
 - Passive: 'Has a letter been written by him?'
- B. "Wh-" Questions (Starting with what, when, why, how, etc.)
 - Rule: The "Wh-" word remains at the beginning. The rest of the sentence is converted to passive following the rules for Yes/No questions.
 - Active: 'Why have you broken the cup?'
 - Passive: 'Why has the cup been broken by you?'

- Active: `When will you help him?`
- Passive: `When will he be helped by you?`

6. Important Notes

- Pronouns Change: When the subject and object swap places, pronouns must change their case.
 - I → me
 - We → us
 - You → you
 - He → him
 - She → her
 - It → it
 - They → them