

form:

Basic steps to form the passive voice:

- 1 The object of the active becomes the subject of the passive.
- 2 We add the auxiliary "to be" – "is/are" when the main verb of the active is present, and "was/were" when it is past.
- 3 In negative or interrogative sentences the auxiliary "to do" is replaced by "to be":
- **do(n't) / does(n't)** become **is(n't) / are(n't)**;
- **did(n't)** becomes **was(n't) or were(n't)**.
- 4 We turn the main verb of the active into the past participle.
- 5 If we need or want to add the agent of the passive, we must use "by".

PASSIVE VOICE

with the PRESENT and PAST SIMPLE

use:

We use the passive voice when we are more interested in the action itself rather than in "who" or "what" did the action.

The agent can be:

- * **unimportant** – "These shoes are made in Indonesia." (the action is more important than who made the shoes)
- * **unknown** – "The windows were broken yesterday." (somebody broke the windows and we don't know who did it)
- * **implicit** – "He was arrested." (most certainly by the police)

examples:

Magazines **use** **pop singers** as models.

Pop singers **are used** as models **by** magazines.

1

2

4

5

When **did** Tom **write** **this letter**?

When **was** **this letter** **written** **by** Tom?

3

1

4

5

SIMPLE PRESENT

SIMPLE PAST

A. Complete the blanks with **is/are + participle**.

- 1) Computers **are sold** (sell) in many different stores.
- 2) English **is spoken** (speak) almost everywhere.
- 3) **Are** these shoes **design** (design) in Portugal?
- 4) Less ice-cream **is eaten** (eat) in the winter.
- 5) Spanish **is took** (teach) in my school too.
- 6) Fashionable clothes **are worn** (wear) both by boys and girls.
- 7) Many people **are influence** (influence) by the media.
- 8) Lots of TV **is watch** (watch) nowadays.

B. Rewrite the sentences in the passive – use the "by" agent only when necessary.

- 1) He takes Linda to school every day.
Linda is taken to school every day by him
- 2) They don't close the shops on Saturdays.
The shops aren't closed on Saturdays by Them
- 3) When does Mike feed the dog?
When is the dog fed by Mike?
- 4) Michael wins every competition.
Every competition is won by Michael
- 5) People invent new things all the time.
New things are invented by people all the time
- 6) Does your mother always prepare your breakfast?
Is your breakfast always prepared by your mother
- 7) We don't wear school uniforms in this school.
School uniforms are not worn in this school by us.
- 8) He keeps his money in a safe place.
His money is kept in a safe place by him
- 9) My mother buys all my clothes.
All my clothes are bought by my mother
- 10) Do you sell safety-pins in your store?
Are you safety-pins sold in your store?

C. Rewrite the sentences in the passive and match them with the pictures.

- 1 He didn't find his files.
- 2 He washed his car on Sunday.
- 3 I didn't paint the whole room.
- 4 My grandfather repaired the old clock.
- 5 John took a lot of photos at the party.
- 6 Richard broke the window.
- 7 The detective solved the case.
- 8 I didn't make my bed this morning.
- 9 They bought the tickets yesterday.
- 10 The Smith drove the children to school.
- 11 Someone stole his wallet.
- 12 Slaves built these pyramids.