

The background of the image is a spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, with the metal wire looping through a series of holes. The text is centered on the right side of the notebook cover.

Passive Voice

Carmen Torres

When do we use it?

□ When the agent is unknown

- Spanish "SE" :

Se venden pisos: Flats are sold

- Spanish "Ellos/as" omitted :

Le dieron un beso a Pepita: Pepita was given a kiss

When do we use it?

- To make the object of the active verb more important

America was discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus

- When the description of the agent is very long

A charity record has been made by many famous names in the world of pop music.

Structure of the sentence

- Subject: Person or object that suffered/enjoyed the results of an action.
- The verb "to be" in the tense the action occurred.
- The Past Participle of the verb that represents the action itself.
- Whatever complements that verb needs.
- In a few special cases we can also use by + the agent.

Structure of the verb

TENSES	EXAMPLES
Present Simple	Pigs are often used to find truffles
Present Continuous	My house is being redecorated at the moment
Present Perfect	I have never been given flowers on my birthday
Past Simple	This picture was painted by Picasso
Past Continuous	When I saw him he was being followed by the police
Past Perfect	She was angry because she had already been told three times
Future Simple	When you get there everything will be finished
Going to - Future	They are not going to be easily convinced
Conditional Simple	You would be punished if they found out

Conditional Perfect

If you hadn't told them **would I have been invited?**

THE PASSIVE VERB

to BE (in the active tense) + Past Participle (main verb)



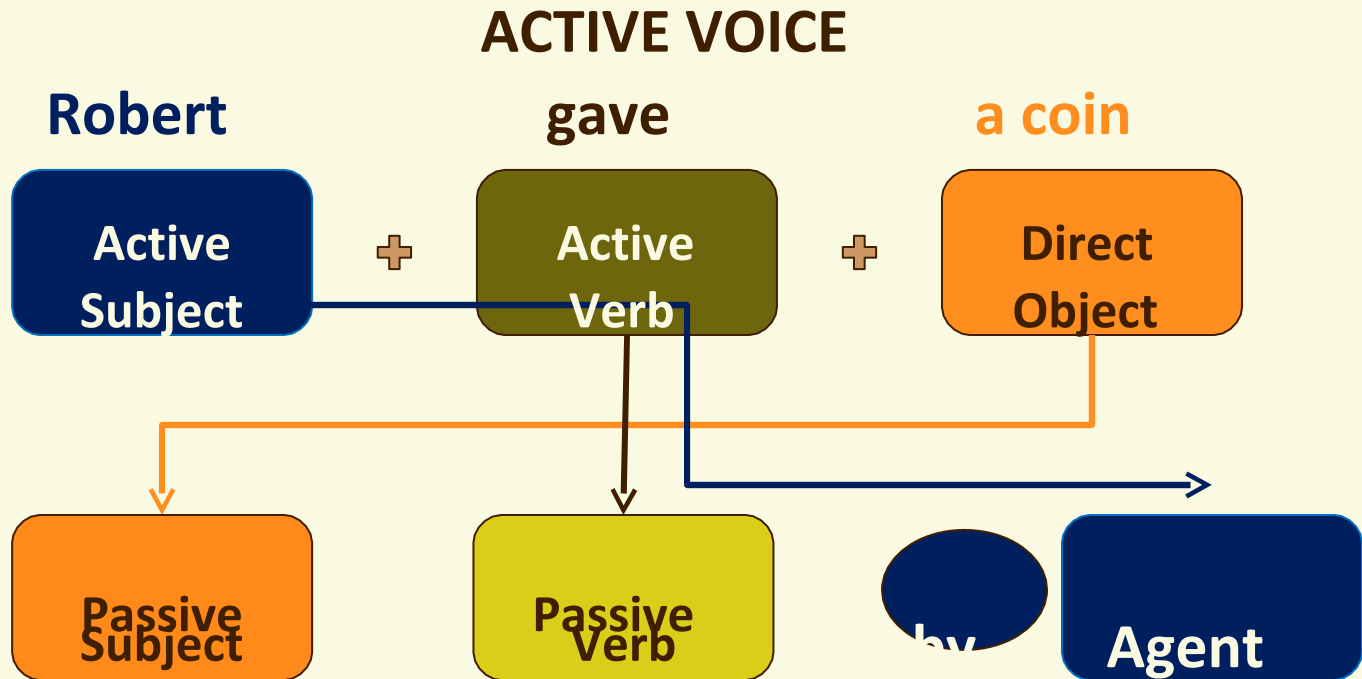
to BE gives us the tense of the action



the principal verb is always in Past Participle

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
She wants an ice-cream	An ice-cream is wanted
He sent a letter	A letter was sent
We will buy a new car next week	A new car will be bought
They have been cutting the grass	NO PASSIVE

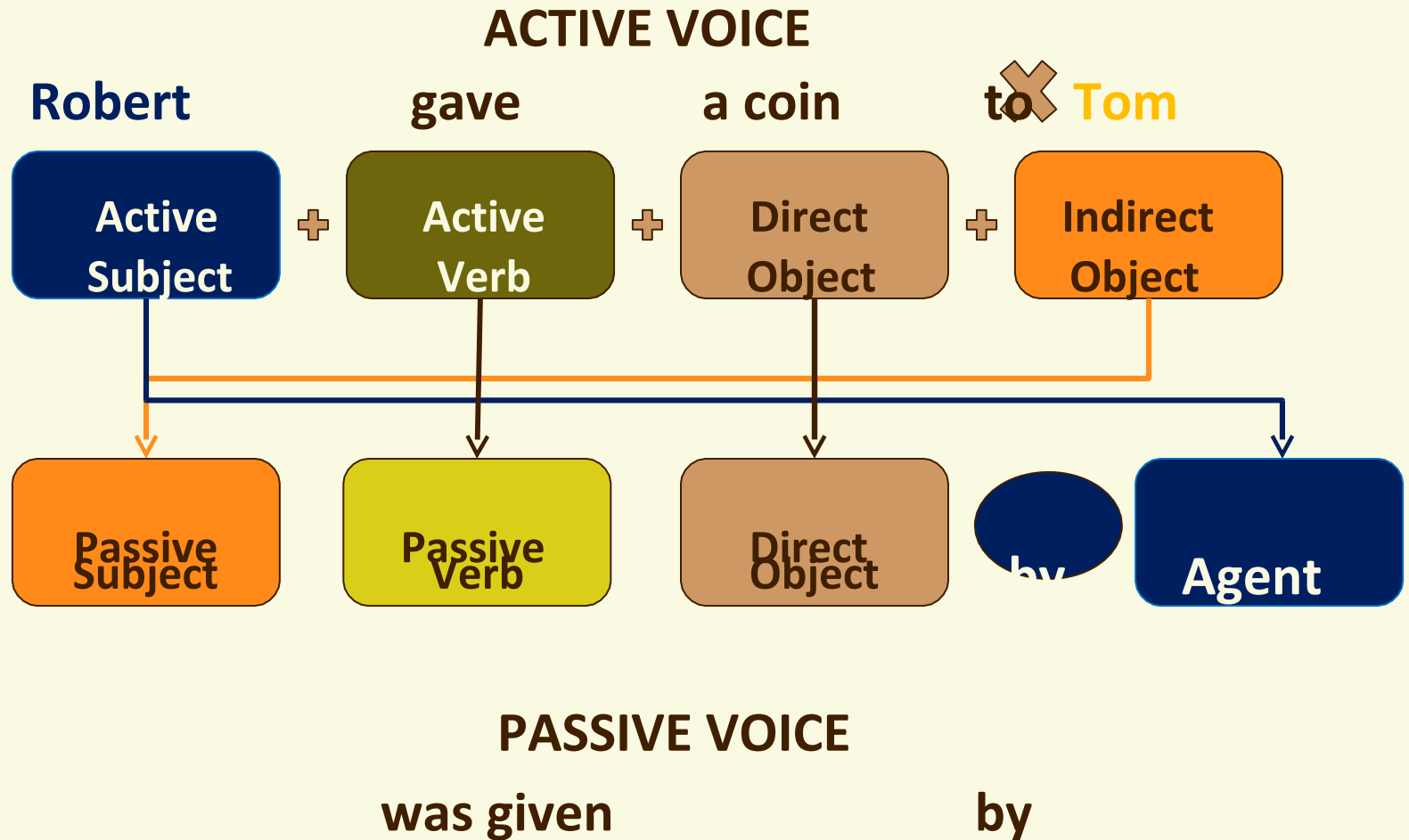
The passive sentence



PASSIVE VOICE

was given by

The passive sentence



Examples

1/ **They** built **this house** in 1466

2/ **This house** was built in 1466

1/ **Channel islanders** speak **French & English**

2/ **French & English** ARE spoken **by**
Channel islanders

1/ **This book** will change **your life**

2/ **Your life** will be changed **by this book**

Examples

1/ They have cut the grass

2/ The grass has been cut

1/ My mother is going to give me a present

2/ I am going to be given a present by my mother

1/ Susan wrote an e-mail to him

1/ He was written an e-mail by Susan

More examples

1/ **They** can't answer **your question**

2/ **Your question** can't be answered

1/ **Someone** had to take **her** to hospital after this

2/ **She** had to be taken to hospital after the crash

1/ **They** shouldn't allow **the children** to do these things

2/ **The children** shouldn't be allowed to do these things

1/ **Someone** must tell **him** if we want him to know

2/ **He** must be told if we want him to know

More passive stuff

- GET is used instead of BE with passive meaning. Informal English.

I got stuck in a traffic jam

She is getting married

- After NEED/WANT the -ing form can be used with passive meaning

This job needs doing

That room wants cleaning

More passive stuff

- HAVE/ GET something done: Arranging for or paying for somebody to do something for you. (Get is more informal).

HAVE + Object +
Past Participle

He had his hair cut

She got her carpet cleaned

We have had our car mended

They had got their book translated

More passive stuff

□ Verbs like: Believe, Think, Consider, Say, Report, Know, Expect, Feel, Understand, Find

1. Introductory IT is used

IT + **passive verb** + **complete subordinate sentence**
without changes

It is said that he started the fire

It is thought that she doesn't live in London

It was known that the King is coming tomorrow

More passive stuff

□ Verbs like: Believe, Think, Consider, Say, Report, Know, Expect, Feel, Understand, Find

Subordinate subject + verb passive + subordinate active verb in INFINITIVE.

It is said that he started the fire (action in the Past)

He is said to have started the fire (Infinitive Perfect)

It is thought that she doesn't live in London (Present)

She is thought to live in London (Infinitive Present)