



# CHAPTER 11

## The Passive

### CONTENTS

11-1	Forming the passive	11-5	Stative passive
11-2	Using the passive	11-6	Common stative passive verbs + prepositions
11-3	Indirect objects as passive subjects	11-7	The passive with <i>get</i>
11-4	The passive form of modals and phrasal modals	11-8	Participial adjectives

### 11-1 FORMING THE PASSIVE

<div>ACTIVE: (a) <table><tr><td>subject</td><td>verb</td><td>object</td></tr><tr><td>Mary</td><td>helped</td><td>the boy.</td></tr></table></div> <div>PASSIVE: (b) <table><tr><td>subject</td><td>verb</td></tr><tr><td>The boy</td><td>was helped</td></tr></table> by Mary.</div>	subject	verb	object	Mary	helped	the boy.	subject	verb	The boy	was helped	<p>In the passive, <i>the object</i> of an active verb becomes <i>the subject</i> of the passive verb: <b>the boy</b> in (a) becomes the subject of the passive verb in (b).</p> <p>Notice that the subject of an active verb follows <b>by</b> in a passive sentence. The noun that follows <b>by</b> is called the “agent.” In (b): <b>Mary</b> is the agent.</p> <p>(a) and (b) have the same meaning.</p>																																																																						
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<div>ACTIVE: (c) An accident <b>happened</b>.</div> <div>PASSIVE: (d) (none)</div>	<p>Only transitive verbs (verbs that can be followed by an object) are used in the passive. It is not possible to use intransitive verbs (such as <i>happen</i>, <i>sleep</i>, <i>come</i>, <i>seem</i>) in the passive. (See Appendix Chart A-1, p. A1.)</p>																																																																																
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\*The progressive forms of the *present perfect*, *past perfect*, *future*, and *future perfect* are very rarely used in the passive.