

The Passive Voice

An action can be described using an active sentence or a passive sentence – depending on your point of view.

Active:

Bjarne Stroustrup invented C++.

Passive:

C++ was invented in 1985 (by Björn Stroustrup).

The passive Voice is used when we are interested in the person or thing affected by the action

-> Object becomes subject

1. Passive and Tenses

Voice	Sentence	Tense
A	I write a program.	Simple Present
P	A program is written (by me).	
A	I am writing a program.	Present Continuous
P		
A		Simple Past
P		
A		Present Perfect Simple
P		
A		Past Perfect
P		
A		Will Future
P		
A		Modals
P		

2. Exercise: Turn these active sentences into passive ones!

1) They use special plastic instead of metal.

2) He spent his 1st day assembling one of the appliances.

3) We have to solve this booting problem first.

4) They have produced a solar-powered convertible PC.

5) Apple had built the early prototypes long before their competitors built them.

6) You should patent your invention immediately!

3. Exercise: Transfer the sentences below into English.

1) Der Ausflug wird wahrscheinlich von der Firma bezahlt.

2) Dem CEO wurde deshalb für seine Freigiebigkeit gedankt.

3) Ein paar schwierige Fragen wurden gerade vom fiesen Lehrer gestellt.

4) Wann wurde dir diese Nachricht übermittelt?
