



Passive voice

Week 4

English for Academic Purposes

English Language Teaching Unit

Faculty of Humanities and Sciences



Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- She dances.



- She took.



- She took flowers.



Transitive verbs



- Transitive verbs are action verbs that require an object to complete its meaning. Without an object the sentence will not be clear.

- Tom broke.
- Tom broke a plate.
- They clean.
- They clean the house every day.



Intransitive verbs

- Intransitive verbs are action verbs that do not require an object to complete its meaning.
- She smiles.
- They run.



VectorStock®

VectorStock.com/1159953





- Intransitive verbs can be followed by a complement.
- She smiles beautifully.
- They run two kilometers every morning.

+

.

o

Transitive or Intransitive ?

- I eat before going to school.

Intransitive

- I eat rice for my breakfast.

Transitive

- Jane reads a lot.

Intransitive

- Jane reads novels everyday.

Transitive

+

.

o

- I'll cook tonight.

Intransitive

- I went there early.

Intransitive

- Jane gave me a book.

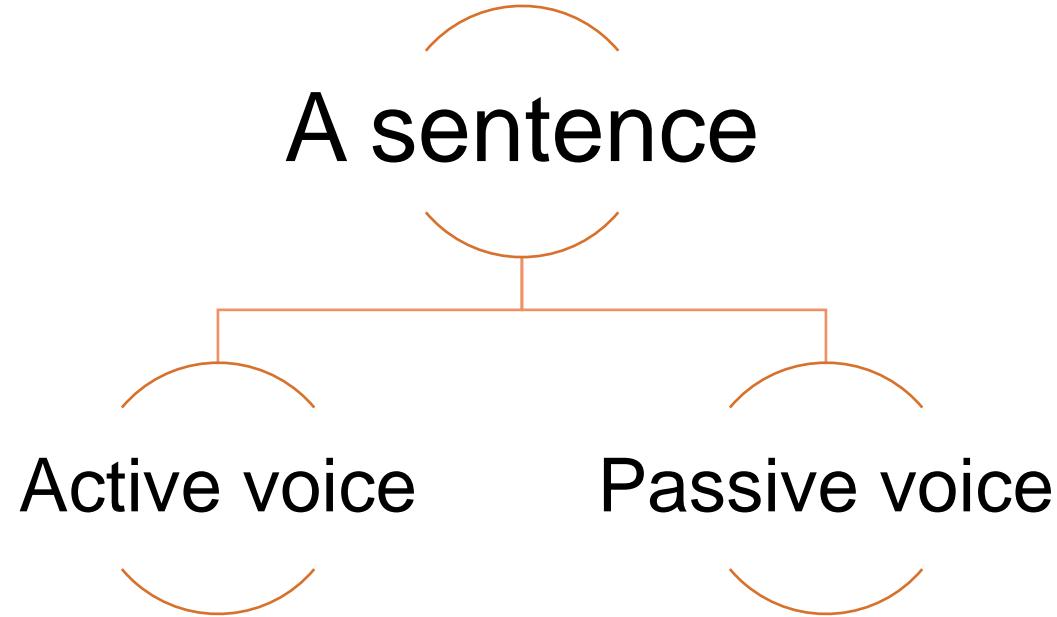
Transitive

- He writes lot of good books.

Transitive

Passive Voice





- Jane writes letters.
- Letters are written by Jane.

The meanings of the two sentences are the same, but they are expressed in a different way.



Active voice

- Use an active verb to say what the subject does
- My grandfather was a builder. He built houses.
- It's a big company. It employs two hundred people.

Passive voice

- Use the passive voice to say what happens to the subject
- This house is quite old. It was built in 1930.
- Two hundred people are employed by the company.

Uses of the Passive Voice

➤ Who or what causes the action is unknown or unimportant.

- This room was cleaned yesterday.
- Most of the vehicles are made in Japan.

If we want to say who does or what causes the actions ,we use '**BY**'

- This house was built **by** my grandfather.
- The room is cleaned **by** the students.
- Food is cooked **by** my mother.

➤ To make more **polite or formal** statements.

- The car **has not been cleaned**. (more polite)
- You have not cleaned the car. (less polite)

➤ When **the action is more important than the agent, as in processes, instructions, events, reports, headlines, new items, and advertisements.**

- 30 people **were killed** in the earthquake.
- 2,828 confirmed cases of the Corona Virus **have been reported** in Sri Lanka with 11 deaths.

Common uses of the passive

We often use the passive in these situations:

news reports

*Three men have been arrested by the police.
The missing child has not been seen for three days.
The results were announced early this morning.*

academic and scientific writing

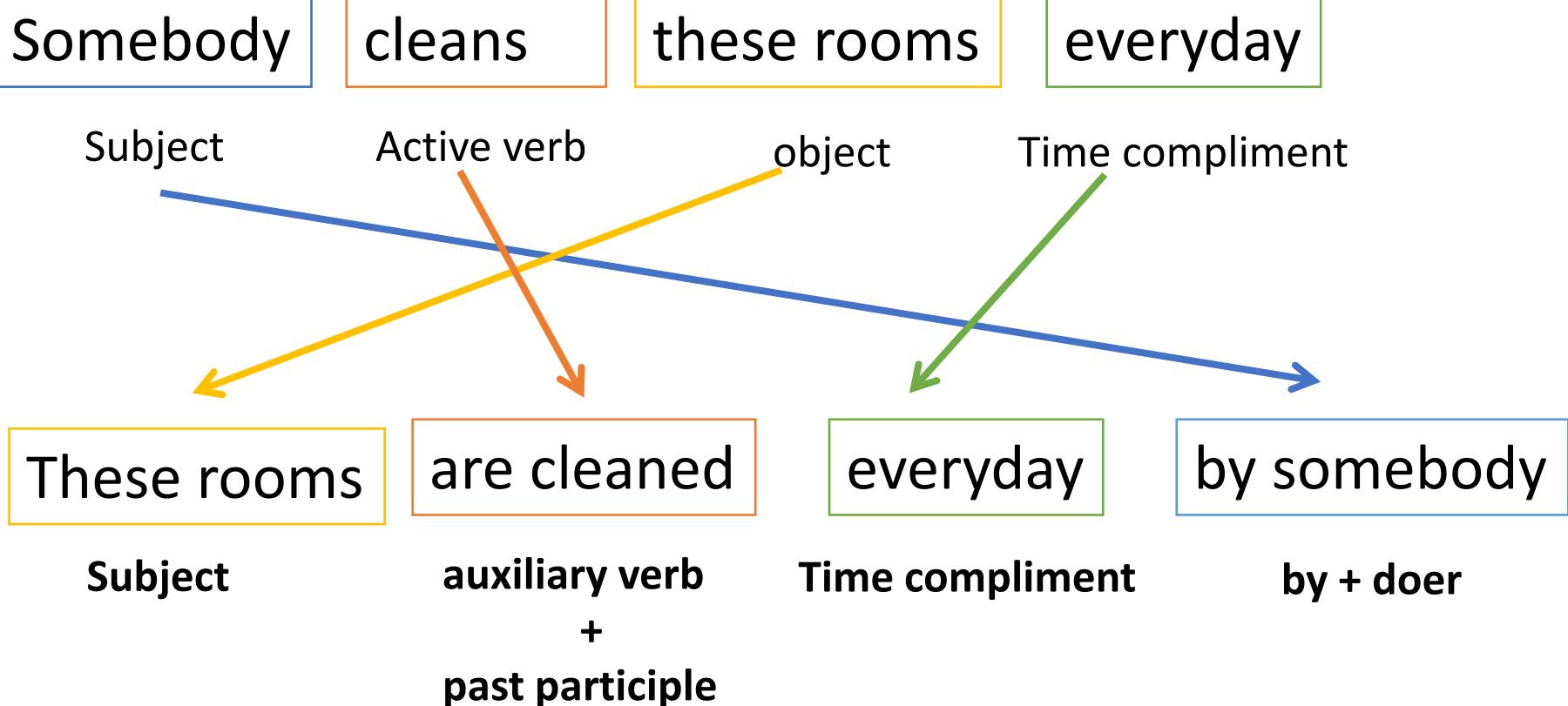
*Three possibilities have been suggested and these will be examined in Chapter 3.
The crystals were heated to a temperature of 150°.*

instructions and rules

*This plant needs to be watered daily.
The doors are locked at 10.30 p.m.*

describing methods, ways of working

*Staff expenses are recorded on form SE11 and supported by receipts.
The employees are paid monthly by cheque.*



Subject+ auxiliary verb + past participle + by + doer

Present simple

Active voice

He **delivers** the letters.

Passive voice

S + am/is/are + Past Participle

The letters are delivered.



Present continuous

Active voice

He **is delivering** the letters.

Passive voice

S + am/is/are + being + Past participle

The letters **are being delivered**.



Present perfect

Active voice

He **has delivered** the letters.

Passive voice

S + have/has + been + PP

The letters **have been delivered**.

Past simple

Active voice

He **delivered** the letter.

Passive voice

S + was/were + PP

The letter **was delivered**.

Past continuous

Active voice

He **was delivering** the letters.

Passive voice

S + was/were + being + PP

The letters **were being delivered**.

Past perfect

Active voice

He **had delivered** the letters.

Passive voice

S + had + been + PP

The letters **had been delivered**.

Future simple

Active voice

He **will deliver** the letters.

Passive voice

S + will + be + PP

The letters **will be delivered**.

Going to

Active voice

He **is going to** deliver the letters.

Passive voice

S + V **be** (am/is/are) + **going to** + **be** + PP

The letters **are going to be delivered.**

Future perfect

Active voice

He **will have delivered** the letters.

Passive voice

S + will have + been + PP

The letters **will have been delivered.**

Infinitive

Active voice

He **has to deliver** the letters.

Passive voice

S + V + infinitive + PP

The letters **have to be delivered**.

Modals

Active voice

He **must deliver** the letters.

He **can't deliver** the letters.

Passive voice

S + modal + be + PP

The letters **must be delivered**.

The letters **cannot be delivered**.

Modals in the past

Active voice

He **should have delivered** the letters.

He **could have delivered** the letters.

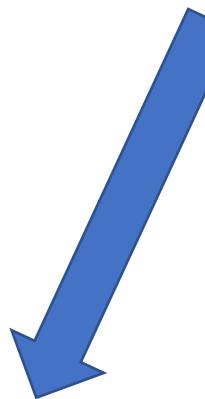
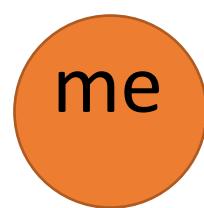
Passive voice

S + modal + have been + PP

The letters **should have been delivered**.

The letters **could have been delivered**.

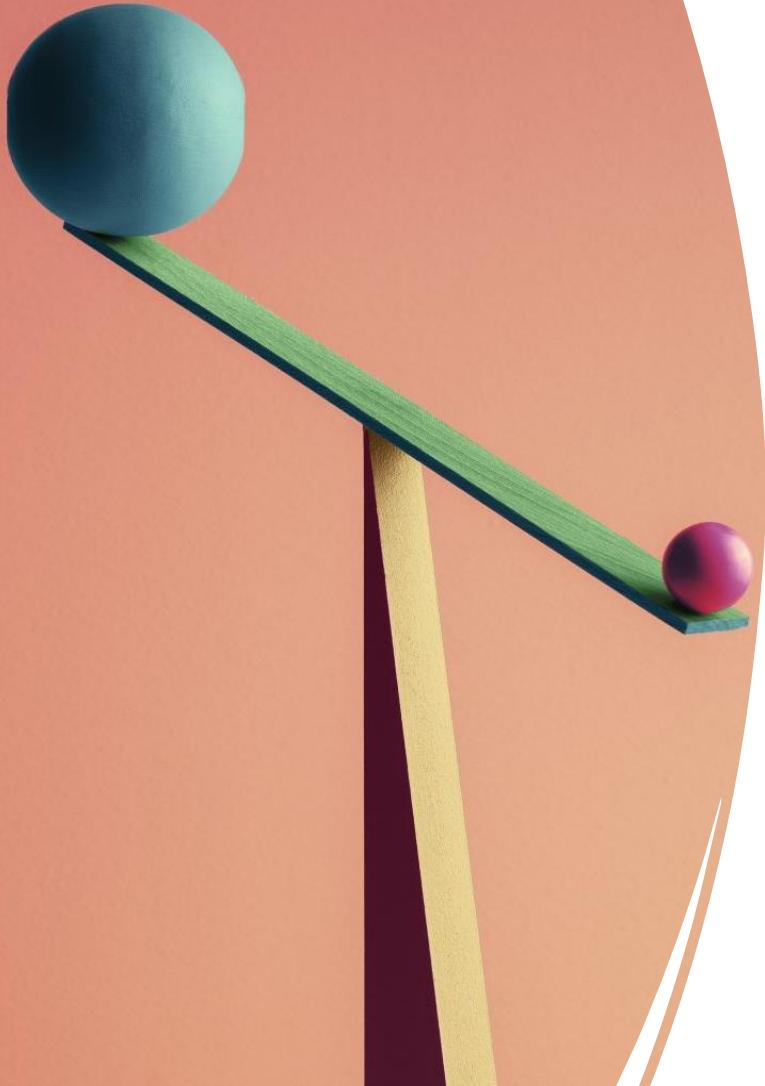
- Rick gave me this book.



Indirect object/
animate



Direct object/
inanimate



Double object verbs

- by making the indirect (animate) object the subject of the passive voice sentence, which is also the way that we usually prefer.
- by making the direct (inanimate) object the subject of the passive voice.

- Rick gave me (indirect object) this book (direct object).
- I was given this book by Rick.
- This book was given to me by Rick.
- Some of the verbs that take two objects are: **give, tell, send, show, bring, write, offer, pay**
- When the indirect object is alone after the verb in the passive voice sentence, it needs the preposition **to**.

- If the indirect object of the active voice sentence is a personal pronoun it has to be changed into a subject pronoun to be the subject of the passive voice sentence.

Rick gave me this book.

 I was given this book by Rick.

	First Person		Second Person		Third Person	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Nominative (Subject)	I	We	You	You	He, She, It	They
Objective (Object)	Me	Us	You	You	Him, Her, It	Them



Personal and Impersonal Passive

Personal passive

- Personal passive simply means that the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
- Every verb that needs an object (transitive verb) can form a personal passive.
- **Example:** They build houses. (Active)
Houses are built. (Passive)



Impersonal Passive

Verbs without an object (intransitive verb) normally cannot form personal passive sentences. If you want an intransitive verb in passive voice, you need an impersonal construction – therefore this passive is called *impersonal passive*.

- **Example:** He says. - It is said.
 - A.V - People say that children are afraid of ghosts.
 - P.V - It is said that children are afraid of ghosts.
 - P.V - Children are said to be afraid of ghosts.



- Following verbs cannot be used in Passive

Occur	resemble
Rise	look like
Happen	equal
Arise	agree
Fall	with
Exist	mean
consist (of)	contain
depend (on)	hold
result (from)	become
lack	suit
Fit	comprise

Read the following sentences. Decide if the underlined verb is active (A) or passive (P).

The actress received an Oscar. A

The actress was given an Oscar. P

1. The actress wore a beautiful gown.
2. Halle Berry presented an Oscar.
3. Halle Berry has been seen in many movies.
4. The director has been nominated many times.
5. Old movies were filmed in black and white.
6. Many actors live in California.
7. Many movies are made in Hollywood.
8. The names of the winners will be printed in tomorrow's newspaper.
9. The actress thanked all the people who helped her win.
10. The actress was driven to the ceremony in a white limousine.
11. Hollywood was built at the beginning of the twentieth century.
12. Hollywood has become the movie capital of the U.S.

**Fill in the blanks with the passive voice of the verb in parentheses.
Use the tense or modal given.**

(simple present: *give*)

The best actor is given an Oscar.

1. (simple present: *see*)

The awards ceremony _____ by millions of people.

2. (future: *choose*)

Which actor _____ next year?

3. (modal: *can / see*)

The movie _____ at many theaters.

4. (present perfect: *make*)

Many movies _____ about World War II.

5. (simple past: *give*)

Kate Winslet _____ the best actress award in 2009.

6. (present continuous: *show*)

A good movie _____ at a theater near my house.

7. (simple past: *make*)

Star Wars _____ in 1977.

8. (present perfect: *show*)

The movie _____ on TV many times.

9. (present perfect: *give*)

Over 2,000 Academy Awards _____ out since 1929.

10. (simple past: *give*)

In 1929, only one award _____ to a woman.

11. (simple past: *add*)

When _____ sound _____ to movies?

It _____ in 1927.

12. (simple present: *often / make*)

Movies _____ in Hollywood.

13. (present perfect: *film*)

How many movies _____ in black and white?

EXERCISE 4 Fill in the blanks with the passive voice of the verb in parentheses (). Choose an appropriate tense.

EXAMPLE Hollywood _____ was built _____ in the early 1900s.
(build)

1. Most American movies _____ in Hollywood.
(make)
2. Let's get some popcorn. It's fresh. It _____ right now.
(make)

(continued)

The Passive Voice; Participles Used as Adjectives; Get + Participles and Adjectives 65

3. Movie listings _____ in the newspaper.
(can/find)
4. Children _____ to see some movies.
(not/allow)
5. Hurry! The winners _____ in ten minutes.
(announce)
6. In 1929, only fifteen Oscars _____.
(present)
7. Before 1941, the winners' names _____ in
newspapers the night before the ceremony.
(publish)

8. A new theater _____ near my house at this time.
(build)

9. We can't get into the movie theater because all the tickets
_____ already.
(sell)

10. Did you see the movie *Harry Potter*? Where _____ it
_____?
(film)

11. I went to the lobby to buy popcorn, and my seat _____
(take)

12. No one knows why the award _____ "Oscar."
(call)

13. *Slumdog Millionaire* _____ as the best film of 2009.
(choose)

14. In a movie theater, coming attractions¹ _____
before the feature film begins.
(show)

15. Sound _____ to movies in 1927.
(add)

16. The Kodak Theatre, where the awards _____
each year, _____ in 2001.
(build)
(present)

| Fill in the blanks with the active or passive voice of the verb in parentheses (). Use the tense indicated.

5 I saw (past: see) an old movie on TV last night.

The movie was filmed (past: film) in black and white.

It will be shown (future: show) again on TV tonight.

1. Many movies _____ in Hollywood.
(present: make)

2. Steven Spielberg _____ many movies.
(present perfect: make)

3. We _____ a DVD this weekend.
(future: rent)

4. Vera Wang _____ beautiful dresses.
(present: design)

5. The actress _____ a dress that _____
(past continuous: wear) (past: design)
by Ralph Lauren.

6. Who _____ the music for the movie? The music
(past: write)
_____ by Randy Newman.
(past: write)

7. The first Academy Awards presentation _____
(past: have)
250 guests.

8. I _____ Star Wars.
(present perfect: never/see)

**Change the following sentences to passive voice in two ways.
Omit the agent.**

They gave the actress an award.

The actress was given an award.

An award was given to the actress.

1. They handed the actress an Oscar.

2. Someone served the guests dinner.

3. Someone told the students the answers.

4. Someone will send you an invitation.

5. They have shown us the movie.

6. They will give the winners flowers.

7. Someone has given you the key.

Fill in the blanks with the active or passive form of the verb in parentheses (). Use the past tense.

Ronald Reagan was elected president of the
(example: elect)
United States in 1980. Before he became
(example: become)
president, he was governor of California. Even before
that, he worked as a Hollywood actor.
(1 work)
He appeared in 53 Hollywood movies between
(2 appear)
1937 and 1964. He was considered a great actor, and
(3 not/consider)
he never won an Oscar.
(4 win)



On March 20, 1981, the day the Oscar ceremony
was scheduled to take place, something terrible
(5 schedule)
happened. Reagan was shot in an
(6 happen) (7 shoot)
assassination attempt. Fortunately, he survived
(8 past: not/die)
from his wounds. One of his aides, who was with him at the time,



had a wound. Out of respect for the president, the Academy
(9 also/wound)
Awards ceremony was postponed for one day. Reagan
(10 postpone)
recovered and continued to serve as president until he
(11 recover)
finished his second term in 1989. He died
(12 finish) (13 die)
in 2004 at the age of 93

Exercise 2

Rewrite the following passages in the Passive Voice.

1. Some people saw a UFO in the sky above London last night. They reported it to the police. The army sent a helicopter to look at it more closely. The UFO shot the helicopter down and killed both men in it. People have given photographs of the UFO to the police. Experts are looking at them now.

A UFO was seen in the sky above London last night by some people. It was reported to the police. A helicopter was sent to look at it more closely by the army. The helicopter was shot by the UFO and both men in it were killed. Photographs of the UFO have been given to the police by people. They are being looked at by experts now.

02. Someone broke into a local jewelry shop yesterday. The owner had just locked up the shop when a robber with a gun threatened him. The robber told him to unlock the shop and give him all the diamonds in the safe. Then the robber tied him up. The police have organized a search for the robber. They hope they will find him in a few days. Doctors are treating the owner of the shop for shock.

A local jewelry shop was broken into yesterday. The shop had just been locked up by the owner, when he was threatened by a robber with a gun. He was told to unlock the shop and give the robber all the diamonds in the safe. Then he was tied up. A search for the robber has been organized by the police. They hope he will be found in a few days. The owner of the shop is being treated for shock.



Thank you