**Active and passive forms**

In English, we can express sentences in two different ways: **active voice** and **passive voice**.

The**active voice** is used when the focus is on the **subject** (or agent) of the main verb. This is the person or thing doing the verb.

***Millions of people****use the internet every day.*

***A strong storm****destroyed many houses in the village.*

***Only six students****passed the test.*

The**passive voice**is used when the **person or the thing affected** by the main verb becomes the focus.

***The internet****is used by millions of people every day.*

***Many houses in the village****were destroyed by a strong storm.*

***The test****was passed by only six students.*

The **passive**is often used when the person or thing doing the verb is **not important**, **unknown**, or **obvious**. In this case, we may **leave them out**completely.

*The solution was heated to 100 degrees.*(agent is unimportant)

*My bike was stolen last Thursday.*(identity of agent is unknown)

*The president was voted into office.*(agent is obvious)

**Form**

**The active voice** is made with **subject + main verb + object**.

*Bees make honey.*

*James Cameron directed Titanic.*

*Alex is repairing Bill's bicycle.*

**The passive voice** is made with **subject + to be + past participle + by + object**.

Note that the active voice object becomes the passive voice subject. In the **passive**, the main verb is always the **past participle**.

**Positive**

*Honey is made by bees.*

*Titanic was directed by James Cameron.*

*Bill's bicycle is being repaired by Alex.*

**Negative**

We make the negative passive with **subject + negative of to be + past participle + by + object.**

*Honey is not made by wasps.*

*Titanic wasn’t directed by George Lucas.*

*Bill's bicycle is not being repaired by Alex.*

**Question**

*Is honey made by bees?*

*Was Titanic directed by James Cameron?*

*Is Bill's bicycle being repaired by Alex?*

**Take note: describing a process**

We can use the **passive voice** to describe processes in which the **action**is more important than the person performing it.

*The metal sheeting was****heated****and****bent into shape****before being****cooled****,****polished****, and finally****painted****.*

**Spoken English**

When using the passive voice, **get** is sometimes used in place of the verb **to be**. This is especially common in informal, spoken English.

*I****got****fired for being late!*

*These letters****get****delivered first.*

*Your bike****will get****stolen if you don’t lock it up.*

**2) Irregular verbs**

Group verbs depending on how many forms they have for the infinitive, past simple and past participle.

**One form**: (put, put, put) (shut, shut, shut)

**Two forms: (**find, found, found) (have, had, had)

**Three forms**: (choose, chose, chosen) (ring, rang, rung)

The last group can be split into further groups in which the three verb forms rhyme, for example:

**Rhyming group 1: (**begin, began, begun) (sing, sang, sung)

**Rhyming group 2**: (break, broke, broken) (speak, spoke, spoken)