ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE

STW UNIT 02

WHAT IS VOICE?

The voice of a verb is the grammatical expression that shows whether the subject in the sentence has performed or received the action.

Sentence 01: Ram ***helps*** Hari.

The form of the verb shows that the subject **performs** an action. So the verb ***helps*** is said to be in the **active voice**.

Sentence 02: Hari is ***helped*** by Ram.

Here, the form of the verb shows that the **subject has received something**. So the verb ***helped*** is said to be in the passive voice.

WHAT IS VOICE CHANGE?

- The act of changing active voice into passive voice or passive voice into active voice, without changing the meaning of the sentence, is called voice change.
- Before changing voice we should be aware of:
- 1. Subject
- 2. Verb
- 3. Object
- 4. $Verb_3$ (Past Participle)

RULES OF VOICE CHANGE

- While changing active voice into passive voice or passive voice into active voice the following points should be kept in mind:

1. Do not change the meaning of the sentence.
2. Do not change the form of the sentence (Imperative/ Interrogative/ other).
3. Do not change the tense of the subject.

TYPES OF VOICE

There are three types of voice in English.

1. **Active voice:** A verb is in the active voice when its form shows that the person or thing denoted by the subject performs something. It is the doer of the action e. g. The cat chased the mouse.

2. **Passive voice:** A verb is in the passive voice when its form shows that something is received by or some action has been performed upon the person or thing denoted by the subject e. g. The mouse was chased by the cat.

3. **Quasi-passive voice:** A verb is in the quasi-passive voice when the sentence does not mention a separate doer of the action, but the action term itself acts like a doer (active in form and passive in sense) e. g. The rose is sweet when smelt.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE

ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
1. The lion roared. (The lion is the highlight of the sentence.)	1. A roar was emitted by the lion. (The roar of the lion is the highlight of the sentence.)
2. The cook prepared the meal. (The cook is given importance.)	2. The meal was prepared by the cook. (The emphasis is on the meal.)
3. Greenhouse gases cause Global Warming. (Greenhouse gas is given emphasis.)	3. Global Warming is caused by Greenhouse Gases. (Significance of Global Warming is the subject.)

EXAMPLES OF QUASI-PASSIVE VOICE

VERB WITH COMPLEMENT

Honey tastes sweet.

- Honey is sweet when it is tasted.

The stone feels rough.

- The stone is rough when it is felt.

VERB WITHOUT COMPLEMENT

The trumpets are sounding.

- The trumpets are being sounded.

The drums are beating.

- The drums are being beaten.

CHANGE OF SUBJECT & OBJECT IN VOICE CHANGE

Active Voice	Passive Voice
I	Me
We	Us
You	You
He	Him
She	Her
They	Them
It	It
Ram	Ram

VOICE CHANGE SHORTCUTS (AFFIRMATIVE)

Active Voice	Passive Voice
Eat/ eats	Am/ is/ are + eaten
Am/ is/ are + eating	Am/ is/ are + being eaten
Have/ has +eaten	Have/ has + been+ eaten
Ate	Was/ were
Was/ were + eating	Was/ were + being + eaten
Had + eaten	Had + been +eaten
Shall/ will + eat	Shall/ will +be + eaten
Shall/ will + have + eaten	Shall/ will + have + been + eaten
Can/ could/ may/ might/ should/ would/ must/ ought to / used to/ + eat	Can/ could/ may/ might/ should/ would/ must/ ought to / used to/ +be + eaten

VOICE CHANGE SHORTCUTS (NEGATIVE)

Active Voice	Passive Voice
Do/ does not + eat	Am/ is/ are + not + eaten
Am/ is/ are + not + eating	Am/ is/ are + not + being eaten
Have/ has + not + eaten	Have/ has + not + been+ eaten
Did + not + eat	Was/ were + not + eaten
Was/ were + not + eating	Was/ were + not + being + eaten
Had + not + eaten	Had + not + been +eaten
Shall/ will + not + eat	Shall/ will + not + be + eaten
Shall/ will + not + have+ eaten	Shall/ will + not + have + been + eaten
Can/ could/ may/ might/ should/ would/ must/ ought to/ use to/ + not + eat	Can/ could/ may/ might/ should/ would/ must/ ought to/ use to/+ not + be + eaten

ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE IN SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL WRITING

In scientific writing, both voices are used to write clear and coherent research articles.

Many scientists overuse the passive voice, but most journals (e.g. *Science* and *Nature)* encourage active voice.

The difference between active and passive voice lies in the amount of emphasis given to the person or object *performing the action* of the sentence, versus the amount of emphasis given to the person or object *being acted upon.*

1. Active voice sentence where the **subject of the sentence performs the action described in the** verb.

We collected samples from six counties in California.

2. Passive voice sentence where the **subject of the sentence receives the action described in the** verb.

Samples were collected from six counties by our research team.

3. In scientific writing, the person or object performing the action is often removed and **implied.**

Samples were collected from six counties.

WHEN TO USE ACTIVE VOICE

The active voice is direct, clear and concise.

It should be used when there is a need to identify and emphasize the role of the researcher.

Active voice should be considered as the default.

e. g. 01: The day-3 **vaccinated animals expressed** higher levels of IFN-a at both day 0 and day 3 after challenge compared with the other groups. (Marzi 742)

e. g. 02: In parallel, **we investigated** the time to protective immunity after a single high-dose VSV-EBOV vaccination against challenge with EBOV-Makona. (Marzi 740)

WHEN TO USE PASSIVE VOICE

Passive voice is used when there is a need to emphasize the research.

It is especially applicable to the "Method" section of scientific journals.

e. g. 01: Passive voice is used when the implied subject is obvious:

Colloidal CdSe-Au NRs were synthesized according to… (Wu 633)

(In this example, we know that the researchers synthesized the Colloidal CdSe-Au NRs.)

e. g. 02: Implied subject is unknown/unimportant:

In the spleen, CD4+ and CD8+ T cells were significantly reduced in DOCK8-deficient compared with wild-type mice at 7 dpi… (Flesch 519)

(In this example, we do not know what is reducing the CD4+ and CD8+ cells; we only know that they are reduced.)

THANK YOU!