

Passive voice

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The passive



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Loyal Sessions joins Trump's list of targets

President's remarks against key officials reinforce the notion no one is close to the Oval Office is safe.

BY BRIAN TERRY AND NOAH BERMAN

WASHINGTON — It would be hard to find someone more loyal to President Trump than Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions.

He was the first senator to give a hearty nod to "Make America Great Again" cap and cheered Trump for president, when, few in Washington back Trump as strongly. Now Sessions is per-

haps the most ardent member of the president's cabinet, presiding his nationalist agenda of tougher policies on crime and immigration.

Yet this week Trump all but declared war with Sessions for having rescued himself from the Russian election meddling investigation, as well as with nearly every top official at the Justice Department.

In an interview Wednesday with the New York Times, the president said he regretted having chosen Sessions and once again raised the possibility of firing special counsel Robert M. Mueller III — a move that he could already accomplish if Mueller served as attorney general.

Trump has shown repeatedly that he favors no such fight with allies and enemies alike — to bend them to his will, in ruthless, unyielding, or, failing that, to silence them.

As much as any development to date, however, Trump's remarks — by their own admission — reinforced the sense that no person close to the president is safe, even if the attack might appear to undermine the president as much as the subject of his anger.

Sessions and White House aides sought to smooth over the controversy Thursday, with the attorney general insisting that he pressed his resignation to the president's confidence.

Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was less definitive about [See Sessions, A3]

BY LISA MANSARI



"THANK YOU" were O.J. Simpson's first words after Nevada parole commissioners announced their ruling.

O.J. Simpson is given parole after 9 years

Fallen star could be out of prison for Vegas robbery by October.

BY DAVID MORTENSON AND MATT FRANCE

CARSON CITY, Nev. — He never drew the spotlight because he sought it. He bathed in it because he loved it. He chased the spotlight until it finally chased him back.

Now, convicted of robbery and kidnapping, Simpson, 59, is set to be released from prison after nine years. He was granted parole Thursday — a unanimous vote by the Nevada Parole Board of Public Commissioners, who had argued for his release. Simpson, 59, had been in prison since 1992.

His release is also unlikely to go unnoted. The moment Simpson received his fourth and final vote from the commissioners recommending release, he dropped his head, as if to give a quiet dose of penitence to himself, before responding, "Thank you."

He didn't look at his attorney or his daughter Arnetta Simpson, who had argued for his release. Simpson, 59, had been in prison since 1992.

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Passive voice

- I drank two cups of coffee
 - Active voice
- Two cups of coffee were drunk
 - Passive voice

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The passive voice

Passive: talk about an **action** rather than the person that does the action.

- It **doesn't matter** who performs the action
 - The votes *will be counted* at the end of the meeting.
- **Everybody knows** who performs the action (not new/relevant information)
 - Here's your skirt. It *has been dry-cleaned*.
- **We don't know** or don't want to say who does the action.
 - My bicycle *has been stolen*!
- We want to talk about **feelings or beliefs**.
 - The building *is believed to* date from the thirteenth century.
- We want to be **polite** or we are in a formal situation / we want to **avoid assigning blame**.
 - Have the reports *been typed* yet?
 - Our invoice of March 2015 *has not been paid*.

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Common uses of the passive

- News reports
 - Three men have been arrested by the police.
- Academic and scientific writing
 - The crystals were heated to a temperature of 150°.
- Instructions and rules
 - The doors are locked at 10.30 p.m.
- Describing methods, ways of working
 - The employees are paid monthly by cheque

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The passive voice



- The shirt has been dry-cleaned *by zombies*.
- The building is believed *by zombies* to date from the thirteenth century.
- Have the reports been typed *by zombies* yet?
- The votes will be counted *by zombies* at the end of the meeting.

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The passive voice

- Formation
- A form of *to be* + *past participle*.

Active voice	Passive voice
They <u>import</u> all the clothes from China.	The clothes <u>are imported</u> from China.
Somebody <u>is washing</u> my jeans.	My jeans <u>are being washed</u> .
I <u>haven't ironed</u> your shirt yet.	Your shirt <u>hasn't been ironed</u> yet.
They <u>will post</u> the results tomorrow.	The results <u>will be posted</u> tomorrow.
I hate people <u>shouting</u> at me.	I hate <u>being shouted at</u> .

- Verb tense in active voice = tense of *to be* in passive voice!

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The passive voice

- The object in the active sentence becomes the *subject* in the passive version!

Active voice	Passive voice
My mother knitted <u>that jumper</u> .	<i>That jumper</i> was knitted by my mother.
We need to repair <u>your shoes</u> .	<i>Your shoes</i> need to be repaired.
We must destroy <u>the ring</u> in the fires of Mount Doom.	<i>The ring</i> must be destroyed in the fires of Mount Doom.



Forms of the verb

Verb form	Construction	example
Present simple (I work)	Am/is/are + PP	How is this word pronounced ?
Present continuous (I'm working)	Am/are/is being + PP	The house is being redecorated
Present perfect simple (I have worked)	Has/have been + PP	He's just been sacked !
Past simple (I worked)	Was/were + PP	All his credit cards were stolen last week.
Past continuous (I was working)	Was/were being + PP	He was being treated for depression when he won the lottery
Past perfect simple (I had worked)	Had been + PP	The vegetables had been cooked for far too long, but we had to eat them.

Forms of the verb

Verb form	Construction	example
Future simple (I will work)	Will be + PP	The house contents will be auctioned a week on Saturday.
Future perfect simple (I will have worked)	Will have been + PP	There's no point in hurrying. It will all have been eaten by now.
Infinitive (to work)	(To) be + PP	Exams have to be taken almost every year you are at school.

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The passive voice

Passive voice with modal verbs!!

- Active voice: You must wash silk by hand.
– Passive voice: Silk **must be washed** by hand.
- Active voice: She could not have washed it yet.
– Passive voice: It **could not have been washed** yet.
- Active voice: You may have left the cake in the oven for too long.
– Passive voice: The cake **may have been left** in the oven for too long.

Passive voice of a modal verb: modal verb (+ not) + to be + past participle of main verb.

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The passive voice

In English, the both the **direct** and the **indirect object** from the active sentence can become the subject of the passive version. In some cases, this means there are two possible passive options.

Active voice	Passive voice
They asked <u>me</u> to take my shoes off.	I was asked to take my shoes off.
The judges gave <u>Amanda</u> <i>first prize</i> .	✓ Amanda was given first prize. ✓ First prize was given to Amanda.
Their aunt gave the children a new kitten.	✓ The children were given a new kitten. ✓ A new kitten was given to the children.

Two options: often with verbs like *give, offer, buy, ...*

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Passive reporting verbs

- To talk about **general feelings or beliefs**
 - His company **is thought** to be worth almost three billion dollars.
- When we **don't know** (or we don't want to say) who made the statement originally
 - It **was suggested** that the factory should be closed.



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Passive reporting verbs

- Reporting verbs: believe, consider, expect, know, report, understand, say, state and think
- Two patterns:
 - **It + passive verb + that clause**
 - **It is said that** Ralph Lauren is the world's richest fashion designer
 - **Subject + passive reporting verb + to + infinitive**
 - **The American team is expected to win.**
- To talk about the past, we use the **perfect infinitive**:
 - The Romans are said **to have built** the town.

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Passive reporting verbs

Supposed to, meant to

- Sth that was arranged or expected but didn't happen
 - He was supposed to phone me yesterday.
- We also use it for things we should or shouldn't do
 - You can't go in there. You're meant to wait outside.
- Can also describe a general belief
 - Try their lamb curry. It's supposed to be really good

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