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GRAMMAR: PASSIVE VOICE

When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following:
The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

The form of the verb is the appropriate form of to be (the tense of the active voice main verb) + the past participle.

The subject of the active sentence becomes the object of the passive sentence (or is dropped)

Examples:

Simple present

Ali writes a letter.

A letter is written by Ali.

Present continuous

My mother is cooking dinner.

Dinner is being cooked.

Simple past

The child broke the vase.

The vase was broken by the child.

Past continuous

He was repairing the car.

The car was being repaired.

Present perfect

They have finished the project .

The project has been finished.

Past perfect

They had found the lost child.

The lost child had been found.

Future

The employee will sign the contract.

The contract will be signed by the employee.

Modals

People **must** respect the law

The law **must** be respected by people.

We **can** find solutions to global warming.

Solutions **can** be found to global warming.

They **can't** answer the question.

The question **can't** be answered.

Impersonal Passive:

This type of passive is called impersonal because we use the impersonal form "it is..." This is only possible with verbs of perception (e. g. say, think, know ...)

Examples: It is said that...It is thought that...It is believed that...It is known that...

It is also common that we start the passive form of these sentences with the subject of the that-clause:

Examples:

Active voice

They say that the planet is in danger.

Passive voice

The planet is said to be in danger.

It is said that the planet is in danger

Active voice

They think that women live longer than men.

Passive voice

Women are thought to live longer than men.

It is thought that women live longer than men

