Passive voice: Switching around the subjects and objects

Example: I ate the apple

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Verb (tense) | Object |
| I | Ate (Past simple) | Apple |

Passive voice: The apple was eaten (by me).

Example 2: This store sells drinks

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Verb (tense) | Object |
| This store | Sells (present simple) | Drinks |

Passive voice: Drinks are sold at this store.

Tense chart (p.p. – past participle)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Active voice** | **Passive voice** |
| Simple present  *Artists makes artwork.* | is/are + p.p.  *Artwork is made by artists.* |
| Present continuous  *She is preparing lunch for us.* | Is/are + being + p.p.  *Lunch is being prepared by her for us.* |
| Simple Past  *He raised the concern in the meeting.* | Was/were + p.p.  *The concern was raised by him in the meeting.* |
| Past continuous  *He was moving the boxes when I came in.* | Was/were + being + p.p.  *The boxes were being moved by him when I came in.* |
| Present perfect  *The author has written over 50 books during her life.* | Has/have + been + p.p.  *Over 50 books have**been written by the author during her life.* |
| Past perfect  *Kenya’s fake lawyer had won 26 court cases in a row before he was exposed.[[1]](#footnote-1)* | Had + been + p.p.  *26 court cases had been won by Kenya’s fake lawyer before he was exposed.* |
| Present Perfect continuous  *I have been fixing the machine for the past fortnight.* | Has/have + been + being + p.p.  *The machine has been being fixed by me for the past fortnight.* |
| Past perfect continuous  *The samurai had been killing criminals in the town before he died in 1732.* | Had + been + being + p.p.  *Criminals in the town had been being killed by the samurai before he died in 1732.* |
| Simple future  *My team will analyze the data* | Will + be + p.p.  *The data will be analyzed.* |

Passive voice questions: Convert the 5 sentences to passive voice:

1. Professor Feynman gives physics lectures.

Physics lectures are given by Professor Feynmann.

1. I washed the clothes last night.

The clothes were washed by me last night.

1. The Taiwanese tea chain has opened 6 new stores this year.

6 new stores have been opened by the Taiwanese tea chain this year.

1. He will recover the lost artifact.

The lost artifact will be recovered by him.

1. The chemical reaction is turning the piece of metal into rust.

The piece of metal is being turned into rust by the chemical reaction.

Passive voice to active voice:

1. Crime has been greatly reduced after the police department received more funding.

The police department has greatly reduced crime after receiving more funding.

1. The monkey was attacked by the man.

The man attacked the monkey.

1. The painting is being displayed at the exhibition.

The exhibition is displaying the painting.

1. The shelves were being restocked by the sales assistant when I came in.

The sales assistant was restocking the shelves when I came in.

1. The construction will be completed by next week. (by the firm)

The firm will complete the construction by next week.

The books have been delivered to your house.

(Someone) has delivered the books to my house.

I like eating donuts.

The sun shines brightly.

Two scenarios where you can’t use passive voice:

1. Subject + verb only (no object)
2. Something personal (opinion)

1. Joshua, E. (2023, October 13). Kenyan “fake lawyer” who won 26 cases exposed. The City Review South Sudan. [*https://cityreviewss.com/kenyan-fake-lawyer-who-won-26-cases-exposed/*](https://cityreviewss.com/kenyan-fake-lawyer-who-won-26-cases-exposed/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)