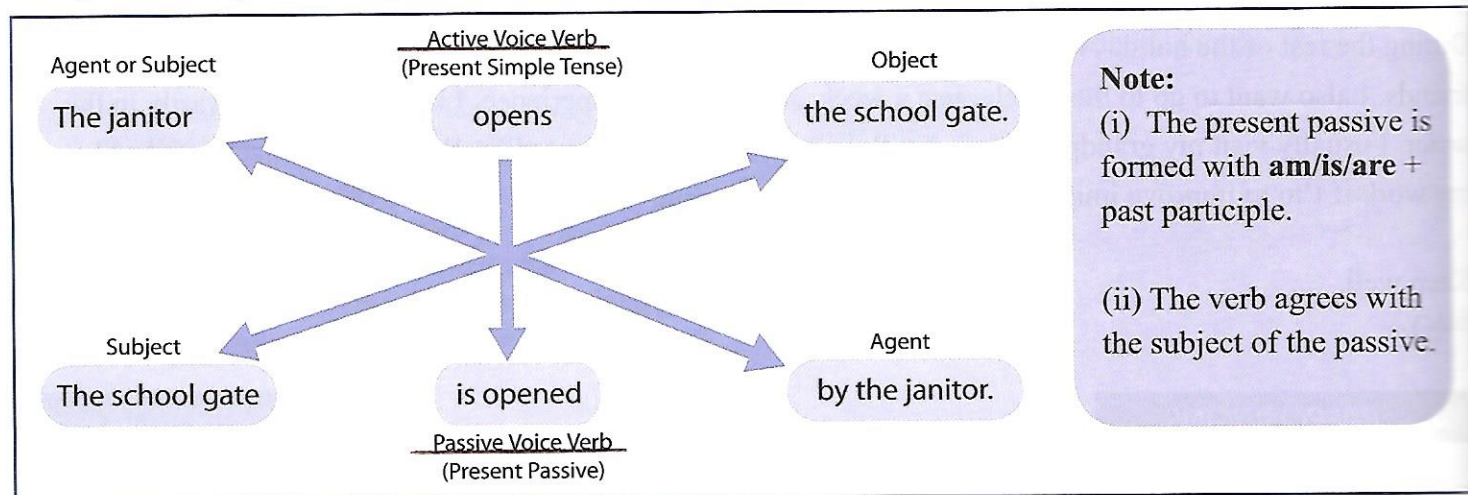


Study this example carefully. Note how the active voice becomes the passive voice.



LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: THE PRESENT SIMPLE PASSIVE FORM

Read this paragraph and note the present simple passive verb form:

The sugar cane **is harvested** during the crop season by combined harvesters or manually. It **is** then **transported** to the factory where it **is crushed** and **made** into sugar. Sugar **is mixed** with other ingredients to make a variety of products. It **is used** as a sweetener. It **is sold** in supermarkets and shops. It **is** also **exported** to other countries.

Application:

- Change these sentences from the active to the passive voice. Use the present simple passive verb form in each sentence.
 - Wheat grows in countries such as Canada, Russia and the United States.
 - Many farmers in the Caribbean cultivate root crops.
 - Our team plays cricket in countries such as India, England and Pakistan.
 - Designers create imaginative costumes for Carnival.
 - Steel bands play calypso music on the streets of Port-of-Spain on Carnival Monday and Tuesday.
 - Hindus celebrate the festival of Divali in the month of October or November.
 - Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr at the end of the month of Ramadan.
 - At the start of every school term, the principal calls an assembly of students, teachers and parents.
 - The Ministry of Education announces the results of the SEA Examination in the month of June.
 - Daily newspapers publish many stories on current events.
- This passage on gasoline production describes a process in sequence (stages). Use the **present simple passive verb form** with the verbs in brackets.

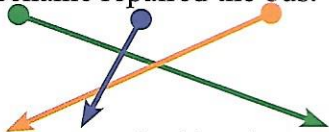
Gasoline Production

First, wells (drill) deep into the earth, both on land and at sea. Then, the oil (pump) out of the ground and (take) to the refinery where it (heat) at 400° C in large furnaces. This high temperature causes the oil to boil and become a mixture of gases. Then, this mixture (carry) to the bottom of a large tower. There, the different parts of the mixture cool on the way to the top and become the liquid we know as gasoline. The liquid (collect) and (store) in tanks. Finally, it (deliver) to service stations throughout the country.

1.6 PASSIVE VOICE: PAST SIMPLE TENSE

The past passive is formed in the same way as the present passive, except that the verb is in the past tense. Study this example:

The mechanic repaired the bus. (Active)



The bus was repaired by the mechanic. (Passive)

Note:

(i) The past passive is formed with **was/were + past participle**.

(ii) The verb agrees with the subject of the passive.

Example: Read this example of the use of the past passive in context.

The airplane **was delayed** because of technical problems, but soon was on its way. Smoke **was spotted** by some passengers sitting at the back of the aircraft. Immediately, the pilot **was alerted** and decided to return to base. The airport fire service **was warned** by air traffic control so that they could prepare to fight the fire. An announcement **was made** by the pilot to relieve the anxiety of passengers. The aircraft **was eventually brought** down safely. The fire **was also put** out by firefighters with the use of chemicals.

Application:

- 1 Complete the paragraph. Use the past passive of the verbs in brackets.

The novel (write) by a famous West Indian writer. It (publish) in 1996. Ten thousand copies (print) in the first edition. The novel (sell) throughout the world. It (praise) by many influential reviewers. The novel (study) by many students for examination purposes. In 1997, the novel (submit) as an entry for the best new book award. It (judge) by an international panel of experts. It (recommend) for the first prize by the judges.

- 2 Change these sentences from active voice to passive voice. Use past passive verbs.

1. The students planted the seedlings in a small trough.
2. The clown handed to the spectators rubber noses at the performance.
3. The air hostess told the passenger to take her seat.
4. Mother gave the infant a shiny toy for her birthday.
5. The chauffeur drove the car with great skill.
6. The fisherman caught several fishes near the jetty.
7. The minister invited the workers to a special dinner.
8. The company sold the customers many items at reduced prices.
9. Mark fed the ducks with grains from the opened bag.
10. Pat Castagne composed the national anthem of Trinidad and Tobago.

1.7 WRITING AN EXPERIMENT: USE OF PAST PASSIVE

Each subject has a particular body of knowledge, vocabulary and structure. A science report contains facts based on observations. The language is concrete, clear, concise and accurate. Note that the past passive is often used in reporting an experiment.

Read the following report of a science experiment. Note the features of the report.

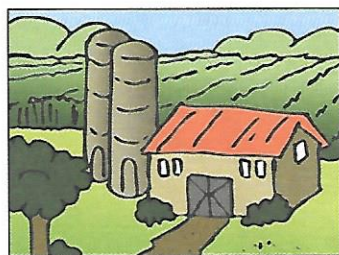
Example A

AIM	To show that exhaled air has more carbon dioxide than inhaled air.
APPARATUS AND MATERIALS	Two test tubes – same size – labelled A and B One straw Limewater
METHOD	Equal volumes of limewater <u>were poured</u> in two test tubes. The colour of the limewater <u>was</u> noted. A straw <u>was placed</u> in test tube A. Exhaled air from a person <u>was breathed</u> through the straw into the limewater. The limewater in test tube B <u>was left exposed</u> to the surrounding air.
RESULTS	The limewater in test tube A turned milky white in appearance as the exhaled air <u>was</u> blown into it. The limewater in test tube B showed no change in colour.
CONCLUSION	Exhaled air has a greater percentage of carbon dioxide compared to inhaled atmospheric air.

Example B

Study carefully the illustrations. Note the stages in the process. The verb form in the explanation of the process is the present passive.

The Process of Making Bread



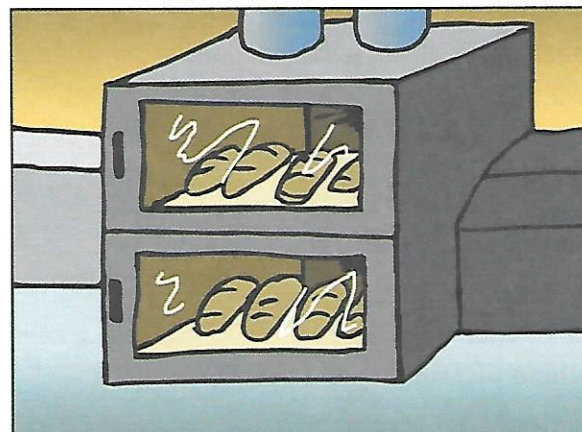
Wheat grains are stored in silos.



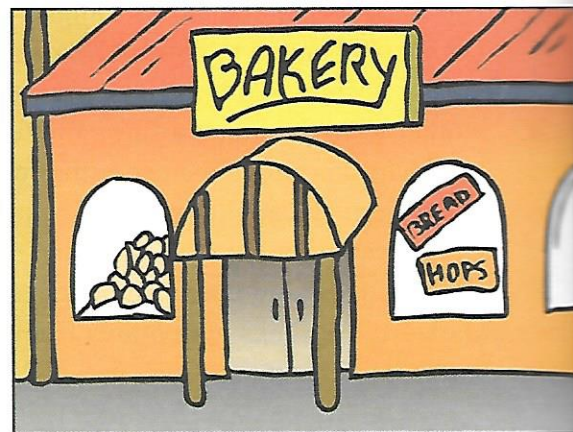
Grains are ground into flour.



The flour is made into dough.



Bread is baked in the oven.



The bakery products are distributed and sold at retail shops.