

Use of Passive

Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

Example:

the painting was stolen.

In the example above, the focus is on the fact that the painting was stolen. I do not know, however, who did it.

Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than active voice, as the following example shows:

Example:

A painting was made.

In this case, I focus on the fact that a painting was made, but I do not blame anyone (e.g. you have made a painting.).

Form of Passive

Subject + finite form of to be + Past Participle

Tense		Subject	Verb	Object
Simple Present	Active:	Alexandra	Paints	a painting.
	Passive:	A painting	is painted	by Alexandra.
Simple Past	Active:	Alexandra	Painted	a painting.
	Passive:	A painting	was painted	by Alexandra.
	Passive:	A painting	has been painted	by Alexandra.
Future	Active:	Alexandra	will pain	a painting.
	Passive:	A painting	will be painted	by Alexandra.
Present Progressive	Active:	Alexandra	is painting	a painting.
	Passive:	A painting	is being painted	by Alexandra.
Past Progressive	Active:	Alexandra	was painting	a painting.
	Passive:	A painting	was being painted	by Alexandra.
Past Perfect	Active:	Alexandra	had painted	a painting.
	Passive:	A painting	had been painted	by Alexandra.