

# STUDY REFERENCE

## GRAMMAR Winning the election

### Language Summary

#### The passive voice

##### *You use the passive voice*

- **When you don't want to focus on the performer of an action (or 'agent')**. This could be because the agent is not known, or it is not important.

*A cap has been placed on ad funding.*

Here **we are not interested in who placed the cap on funding, only that there is a cap.**

- **When the agent is obvious**

*It's election year in the US. The election will be held in November.*

In the second sentence, **it is already clear that the US is holding the election; it is the month that is important.**

- **In formal or academic English**

*Over ten thousand election adverts will have been shown on national television by the time the winner is declared.*

**The text is written in a formal style, so the passive voice is preferred.**

- **You can include the agent in a passive sentence by adding it to the end of the sentence with by.**

*It's much more likely that elections are won by media support.*

**Here we are interested in the fact that media support influences election outcomes, so we add the subject at the end of the sentence.**



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#### The passive voice cont.

- You form *the passive voice with: receiver of action + to be + past participle*

*Political adverts are made for US TV.*

- To *add the agent to a passive sentence, you use: receiver of action + to be + past participle + by + agent*

*The advert was made by the political party.*

- To *change the tense in a passive sentence, you modify the form of the verb to be.*

*Elections **are won by** media support. (present simple passive)*

*The election **will be held in** November. (future simple passive)*

*Over ten thousand election adverts **will have been shown** by the time the winner is declared. (future perfect passive)*

*A cap has been placed on ad funding. (present perfect passive)*

