

04-Passive-Voice

Passive Voice

Level: B2 (Advanced)

Tags: #B2 #grammar #advanced #passive #voice

Video Lesson

"TODO: Insert Video for German Passive Voice" is not created yet. Click to create.

Overview

The passive voice in German is used to emphasize the action or result rather than the person performing the action. At B2 level, you should be able to form and use passive voice in all tenses and transform between active and passive constructions.

Formation

Present Passive

werden + past participle

- **Das Buch wird gelesen.** (The book is being read.)
- **Die Arbeit wird gemacht.** (The work is being done.)

Past Passive

wurden + past participle

- **Das Buch wurde gelesen.** (The book was read.)
- **Die Arbeit wurde gemacht.** (The work was done.)

Perfect Passive

sein + past participle + worden

- **Das Buch ist gelesen worden.** (The book has been read.)
- **Die Arbeit ist gemacht worden.** (The work has been done.)

Future Passive

werden + past participle + werden

- **Das Buch wird gelesen werden.** (The book will be read.)

- **Die Arbeit wird gemacht werden.** (The work will be done.)

Usage

When to Use Passive Voice

- When the agent (doer) is unknown or unimportant
- When emphasizing the action or result
- In formal writing and academic texts
- In instructions and procedures
- When the agent is obvious from context

Examples

- **Das Auto wird repariert.** (The car is being repaired.)
- **Die Prüfung wurde bestanden.** (The exam was passed.)
- **Das Problem ist gelöst worden.** (The problem has been solved.)

Important Rules

Agent with "von" or "durch"

- Use **von** for people: **Das Buch wurde von dem Autor geschrieben.** (The book was written by the author.)
- Use **durch** for things or means: **Das Problem wurde durch neue Technologie gelöst.** (The problem was solved through new technology.)

Impersonal Passive

- Used with intransitive verbs: **Es wird getanzt.** (There is dancing.)
- Can omit "es": **Gestern wurde viel gearbeitet.** (Yesterday much work was done.)

Passive with Modal Verbs

- **Das muss gemacht werden.** (That must be done.)
- **Das kann nicht geändert werden.** (That cannot be changed.)

Usage Examples

Professional Context

- **Das Projekt wird von unserem Team geleitet.** (The project is being led by our team.)
- **Die Ergebnisse wurden gestern präsentiert.** (The results were presented yesterday.)
- **Das Problem ist bereits gelöst worden.** (The problem has already been solved.)

Academic Context

- **Die Studie wurde von Wissenschaftlern durchgeführt.** (The study was conducted by scientists.)
- **Die Ergebnisse werden in Fachzeitschriften veröffentlicht.** (The results are being published in academic journals.)

Personal Context

- **Das Auto wird morgen repariert.** (The car will be repaired tomorrow.)
- **Das Essen wurde von meiner Mutter gekocht.** (The food was cooked by my mother.)

Related Topics

Next: [Participle Constructions](#)

Related: [Advanced Participle Usage](#)

Practice: [Passive Voice Exercises](#)



Memory Tips

1. **Learn the formation patterns** - werden + past participle for present/past
2. **Practice transformations** - Convert active to passive and vice versa
3. **Use appropriate agents** - von for people, durch for things
4. **Master modal passive** - Common in formal writing



Writing Application

When writing at B2 level:

- Use passive voice appropriately in formal contexts
- Transform between active and passive constructions
- Use modal passive for instructions and procedures
- Practice with academic and professional examples

Practice Examples

Transform active to passive:

1. Der Lehrer erklärt die Grammatik. → Die Grammatik **von dem Lehrer** . (is explained)
2. Die Firma entwickelt neue Produkte. → Neue Produkte **von der Firma** . (are developed)

Answers: 1. wird, erklärt, 2. werden, entwickelt

Complete the passive sentences:

1. Das Problem ____ gelöst. (is being)

2. Die Arbeit ___ gestern gemacht. (was)
3. Das Buch ___ gelesen werden. (will be)

Answers: 1. wird, 2. wurde, 3. wird

Next: [*Participle Constructions*](#)