

Lesson 4: Passive Voice

1. Forms

TENSES	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
Present Simple	Subject + V1 + object The teacher punishes me. The teacher punishes the boy. The teacher punishes the boys.	Subject (object) + am/is/are + V3... I am punished by the teacher. The boy is punished by the teacher. The boys are punished by the teacher.
Present Progressive / Present Continuous	S + am/is/are + V(ing) + object The teacher is punishing me. The teacher is punishing the boy. The teacher is punishing the boys.	S + am/is/are + being + V3... I am being punished by the teacher. The boy is being punished by the teacher. The boys are being punished by the teacher.
Past Simple	S + V2 + obj The teacher punished me. The teacher punished the boys.	S + was/were + V3... I was punished by the teacher. The boys were punished by the teacher.
Past Progressive / Past Continuous	S + was/were + V(ing) + obj The teacher was punishing me. The teacher was punishing the boys.	S + was/were + being + V3... I was being punished by the teacher. The boys were being punished by the teacher.
Present Perfect	S + have/has + V3 + obj The teacher has punished me. The teacher has punished the boy.	S + have/has + been + V3... I have been punished by the teacher. The boy has been punished by the teacher.
Past Perfect	S + had + V3 + obj The teacher had punished me. The teacher had punished the boys.	S + had + been + V3... I had been punished by the teacher. The boys had been punished by the teacher.

Future Simple	S + will + V (base form) + obj The teacher will punish me. The teacher will punish the boys.	S + will + be + V3... I will be punished by the teacher. The boys will be punished by the teacher.
be going to / Future	S + am/is/are + going to + V (base form) + obj The teacher is going to punish me. The teacher is going to punish the boys.	S + am/is/are + going to + be + V3... I am going to be punished by the teacher. The boys are going to be punished by the teacher.

2. Use

Active	Passive
<p>We use <i>Active Voice</i> when the performer of the action or the agent comes first and is made the subject of the verb, and then we use the active form of the verb. The other person or thing is made the object of the verb.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The boss invited her to the party. - The construction company employs three hundred people. 	<p>The <i>Passive Voice</i> is used when we want to focus attention on the person or thing that is affected by the action.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She was invited to the party by the boss. - Three hundred people are employed by the construction company.
<p>Note: only <i>transitive verbs</i> (need object) can have passive forms.</p> <p><i>Intransitive verbs:</i> cry, die, arrive, disappear, wait, and many other verbs cannot be used in the passive voice. They have no objects, so there is nothing to become the subject of a passive sentence.</p>	

Exercise practice

Instruction 1: *Change from active sentences to passive sentences.*

1. People invent new things all the time.
New things are invented by the people all the time.
2. Does she wear school uniforms in school?
Are school uniform wore by her?
3. He is keeping his money in a safe place.
His money is being kept by him in a safe place.
4. Is she buying clothes?
Are clothes being bought by her?
5. They didn't close the shops on Saturday.
The shops wasn't closed by they on Saturday.
6. Did she notice you?
Were you noticed by her?
7. They were playing the piano.
The piano was being played by them.
8. Was he looking at you?
Were you being looked at by him?
9. They have not read the book.
The book hasn't been read by them.
10. Have they won the competition?
Have the competition been won by them?
11. I had not opened the present.
The present hadn't been opened by me

12. Had the customer paid you?

Had you been paid by the customer?

13. He won't change his mind.

His mind won't be changed by him.

14. Will you wash the car?

Will the car be washed by you?

15. They are going to persuade her.

She are going to be to persuaded by them?

16. Are you going to visit the exhibition?

Is the exhibition going to be visited by you?

Instruction 2: *Change from Passive to Active.*

1. The fish is eaten by him.

He eats the fish.

2. Is the hungry boy given food by them?

Do they the hungry boy food?

3. The thief is being caught by three police.

Three police are catching the thief

4. Are you being called by him?

Is he calling you?

5. The purse wasn't stolen by the girl.

The girl stole the purse.

6. Was he fired from his job by his boss?

Did his boss fire he from his job?

7. The dogs were being fed by Mike.

Milk was feeding the dog.

8. Were the clothes being designed by her?

Was she design the clothes?

9. Their new albums have not been released by the company yet.

The company hasn't released their new albums yet.

10. Has the news been read by you?

Have you read the news?

11. The bill had not been paid by them.

They hadn't paid the bill.

12. Had you been phoned by her?

Had she phoned you?

13. The window won't be opened by him.

He will not opened the window.

14. Will the door be locked by Jenny?

Will Jenny locked the door?

15. Master degree isn't going to be pursued by them.

They aren't going to pursued Master degree.

16. Are the books going to be published by the author?

Is the author going to be published the book?

Instruction 3: *Decide whether the sentences below are Active or Passive by choosing the correct verb form.*

1. Barbara _____ James very well.

A. knows

B. is known

2. The jewels _____ in the cellar.

A. had not hidden

B. had not been hidden

3. _____ this idea _____?

A. Will / be accepted

B. Will / accept



4. We _____ all day on the beach.
A. were being spent B. were spending
5. Computers _____ in many stores.
A. are sold B. sell
6. Jane _____ to school by her father.
A. was not taken B. took
7. _____ she _____ in Boston?
A. Is / going to study B. Is / going to be studied
8. We _____ to live abroad.
A. were sent B. sent
9. They _____ their granny.
A. will be visited B. will visit
10. We _____ by our teacher.
A. are going to be visited B. are going to visit
11. _____ these shoes _____ in Cambodia?
A. Do / design B. Are / designed
12. Milk _____ in the refrigerator.
A. is keeping B. is being kept
13. _____ Sinsisamut's songs?
A. Did he sing B. Was he sung
14. _____ the cat _____ the milk?
A. Is / going to be drunk B. Is / going to drink
15. She _____ for a bank.
A. hasn't worked B. hasn't been worked