

ACTIVE VOICE

Sentences in which the subject performs the action and the object receives it are said to be in the active voice. ~~All the above sentences are in active voice.~~

Note - When the subject of the verb is the doer of the action, then it is said to be in active voice.

~~You must have noticed some important points about sentences in the active voice.~~

- (a) Verbs are used in the active form.
- (b) The action is expressed directly.
- (c) The emphasis is on the subject of the verb rather than the object.



PASSIVE VOICE

Now, let us consider a sentence when the subject receives (is not the doer of) the action of the verb. Such a sentence is said to be in the passive voice.

When the verb in a sentence shows that the subject is not the doer of the action, the sentence is in the passive voice.

~~Let us re-write the above examples.~~

- (a) The cake was cut by Rita.
- (b) It was eaten by the children.
- (c) A song was sung by them.

In each sentence, the subject (the cake/it/a song) is not the doer of the action. Hence, the sentences are in passive voice.

Note - We generally express actions in the active voice.

We prefer to use the passive voice when:

- we do not know who has done the action

Examples : (a) My bag was stolen at the fair. (It is not clear who stole the bag.)

(b) The cyclist was hit by a racing truck. (It is not clear which truck hit him).

(c) The announcement was heard. (It is not clear who made the announcement.)

- the action is more important than who did the action or what caused it

Now read the following notice :

FEATURES

- Verbs which require a direct object to complete their meaning are called transitive verbs.

Example : Nita **found** her mobile.

- Intransitive verbs do not require objects to complete their meaning.

Examples : (a) Jagan is an engineer. (b) John is sleeping.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- Transformation of sentences from the active to passive form can be easily done if a few points are kept in mind. But we should always remember that sentences with intransitive verbs (without an object) cannot be transformed into passive voice.

Example : Rita threw (the) ball.
verb object

(This can be changed into passive voice.)
The ball was thrown by Rita.

- Only those sentences in the active voice that have transitive verbs and therefore objects, can be changed into the passive voice.
- Future continuous and perfect continuous tenses do not have passive forms.
- Ditransitive verbs can have two passive forms because they have two objects. (This is explained later in the lesson in detail.)

FEATURES

- While changing a sentence from the active to passive voice, many points need to be kept in mind.

- The object of the verb in the active voice becomes the subject in the passive voice.

Example : Rita cut the cake. (active)
The cake was cut by Rita. (passive)

- The form of the verbs is changed in accordance with the tense. It becomes be ('is', 'are', 'was', 'were') + the participle of the verb.

Example : The children ate it. (active)
It was eaten by the children. (passive)
(Here ate is changed to was eaten.)

- The subject of the active voice is expressed as : by + agent in the passive voice.

Example : They sang a song. (active)
A song was sung by them. (passive)

Change of helping verbs in Passive voice -

In active voice \longrightarrow In passive voice
 $V^1 / V^1 + s/es \longrightarrow is/are/am + V^3$

$do/does + V^1 \longrightarrow is/are/am + V^3$

$V^2/did + V^1 \longrightarrow was/were + V^3$

$is/are/am + Ving \longrightarrow is/are/am + being + V^3$

$was/were + Ving \longrightarrow was/were + being + V^3$

$has/have/had + V^3 \longrightarrow has/have/had + been + V^3$

$has/have/had + been + Ving \longrightarrow X$

$will/shall + V^1 \longrightarrow will/shall + be + V^3$

$will/shall + be + Ving \longrightarrow X$

$will/shall + have + V^3 \longrightarrow will/shall + have + been + V^3$

$will/shall + have been + Ving \longrightarrow X$

$Modal + V^1 \longrightarrow modal + be + V^3$

Pronoun change -

In active (obj) $\xrightarrow{\text{Sub in P.V.}}$ In passive (Obj)

me	_____	I	_____	by me
us	_____	We	_____	by us
you	_____	You	_____	by you
him	_____	He	_____	by him
her	_____	She	_____	by her
it	_____	It	_____	by it
them	_____	They	_____	by them