

Active and passive voice

voice



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graph TD; voice[voice] --- active[active]; voice --- passive[passive];
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active

passive

What subject does

**The focus is on the
action.**

Active : Ram killed Ravan

Passive : Ravan was killed by Ram.

How to change from active to passive?

Look at this statement

Ram killed Ravan

Subject

verb

object

Ravan was killed by Ram.

object

be verb

verb 3

Subject

Active : Ram killed Ravan

Passive : Ravan was killed by Ram.

She helps **him**.

He is helped **by her**.

I am buying a pen.

A pen is being bought **by me**.

He has to teach **us**.

We have to be taught **by him**

Someone is following **us**.

We are being followed.

Active = sub +v + ob

Passive = object + be+ v3 + by sub

Very common rule is:

- Bring the object first
- Choose correct 'be' verb
- Change verb into participle
- Add by + subject

object +
'be' verb +
verb 3 +
by +
subject

She helps him.



He is helped by her.

Look, how subject and object change:



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Subject Object

I

Me

We

Us

You

You

They

Them

He

Him

She

Her

Ram

Ram

Book

Book

If there are two objects:  Use any

She told us a story.

We were told a story by her.

A story was told to us by her

one

They appointed him an ambassador.

He was appointed an ambassador.

An ambassador was appointed to him.

The story has taught us a good lesson.

We have been taught a good lesson by the story.

A good lesson has been taught to us by the story.

**has/ have/ had/ is/ am/ are/ was/ were +
to + v1**

She has to help us.

We have to be helped by her.

We have to learn English.

English has to be learnt.

I had to wait the bus.

The bus had to be waited by me.

has, have, had to + v1 =

has, have, had + to be + v3

Modal auxiliary verbs

*can, could, shall, should, may,
might, will, would, must*

+ v1 = modal + be + v3

She can speak Chinese.

Chinese can be spoken by her.

We must preserve the tigers.

Tigers must be preserved .

**must have , should have, could have,
might have, would have + v3 =**

**must have , should have, could have,
might have, would have + been + v3**

He should have stolen my pen.

My pen should have been stolen by him.

They must have left any sign.

Any sign must have been left.

No need to add 'by + sub' if the subject is :

we , they, someone, somebody, none, nobody, everybody, people ect

They have stolen my pen.

My pen has been stolen.

They must have left any sign.

Any sign must have been left.

Negative sentences remain negative

They have not stolen my pen.

My pen has not been stolen.

They must not have left any sign.

Any sign must not have been left.

Nobody has done homework.

Homework has not been done.

Look at the table

Active	Passive
simple present (v1/ v5)	ob+ is/ am/ are + v3
Present continuous (is, am, are, v ing)	ob + is/ am/ are + being + v3
Present perfect (has / have + v3)	ob + has/ have + been + v3
Present perfect (has/ have + been + v ing)	Not used commonly

She is cooking rice.

She writes beautiful poems.

Rice is being cooked by her.

Beautiful poems are written by her.

He has done homework.

Homework has been done by him.

Look at the table

Active	Passive
simple past (v2)	ob+ was/ were + v3
Past continuous was/ were v ing)	ob + was/ were + being + v3
Past perfect (had + v3)	ob + had+ been + v3
Past perfect (had + been + v ing)	Not used commonly

She was cooking rice.

She wrote beautiful poems.

Rice was being cooked by her.

Beautiful poems were written by her.

He had done homework.

Homework had been done by him.

Look at the table

Active	Passive
simple future (will/ shall +v1)	ob+ will/ shall + be + v3
Future continuous (will/ shall + be + v ing)	not common in passive
Future perfect (will / shall + have + v3)	ob + will / shall + have been + v3)
Future perfect (will/ shall + have + been + v ing)	Not used commonly

She will write beautiful poems.

Beautiful poems will be written by her.

He will have done homework.

Homework will have been done by him.

Look at these examples

She will write poems beautifully.

Poems will be beautifully written by her.

beautifully adverb goes just before verb 3

He handled the load carefully.

The load was carefully handled by him.

Passive of 'yes / No' question

Can you speak English?

Can English be spoken by you?

Has he helped them?

Have they been helped by him?

Did you help him?

Was he helped by you?

Do/ does + sub+ v1+ ob=

Is/ am/ are + ob + v3

Did + sub+ v1 + ob =
Was/were+ obj + v3

some example of yes/ no

Are they planting trees?

Are trees being planted ?

Did they tell anything?

Was anything told?

Didn't he buy anything?

Wasn't anything bought by him?

will he bring the book?

will the book be brought by him?

Passive of wh question

are they planting trees?

are trees being planted ?

did they tell you?

were you told?

Similar to
yes /no

Who questions are changed in 2 ways.

Who opened the door?

Who was the door opened by?

By whom was the door opened ?

Passive of who question

Who opened the door?

Who was the door opened by?

By whom was the door opened?

who + be + ob + v3 + by?

By whom + be + ob + v3 ?



Passive of imperative / let

open **the door?**

Let **the door** **be** **opened.**

Let + **object +** **be +** **verb 3**

Let **him** **open** **the door?**

Let **the door** **be** **opened** **by** **him.**

Let + **object +** **be +** **verb 3 +** **by +** **sub**

Voice change : some examples

Did you teach us ?

Were we taught by you?



She has to prepare food.

Food has to be prepared by her.

Who told you about the accident?

By whom were you told about the accident?

People are destroying the jungle.

The jungle is being destroyed.

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