

PASSIVE VOICE

be + past participle

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT	AGENT
The chef	prepares	the meals.	
The meals	are prepared		by the chef.

	Active voice	Passive Voice
Present Simple	They paint the house.	The house is painted .
Present Continuous	They are painting the house.	The house is being painted .
Past Simple	They painted the house.	The house was painted .
Past Continuous	They were painting the house.	The house was being painted .
Future Simple	They will paint the house.	The house will be painted .
Present Perfect Simple	They have painted the house.	The house has been painted .
Past Perfect Simple	They had painted the house.	The house had been painted .
Future Perfect Simple	They will have painted the house.	The house will have been painted .
Present Infinitive	They should paint the house.	The house should be painted .
Perfect Infinitive	They should have painted the house.	The house should have been painted .
Simple Gerund	Painting the house is difficult.	The house being painted is difficult.
Perfect Gerund	Having painted the house, they took a rest.	The house having been painted , they took a rest.

NOTES:

- **Future Continuous, Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous, Future Perfect Continuous** are not normally used in passive voice.
- Only **transitive verbs** (verbs that take an object) can be put into the passive voice.
- **by + agent** is omitted when the agent is unknown, unimportant or obvious
eg. My bike was stolen. (I don't know who did it)
Our office will be painted next week. (We are more interested in the action, not the agent)
The suspect has been questioned. (by the police obviously)
- **by + agent** : shows who or what did the action (eg. The window was broken by Tom.)
with + instrument / material : shows what the agent used (eg. The window was broken with a rock.)
- Verbs with **prepositions** keep the preposition immediately after the verb in the passive.
eg. They take care of the patient. → The patient is taken care of.
- With verbs that have **two objects**, either object can become the subject in the passive.
eg. She gave me a gift. → A gift was given to me. / I was given a gift. (more usual)
- **make, see, hear, help** are followed by a to-infinitive in the passive voice.
eg. They made him leave. → He was made to leave. / They saw her run. → She was seen to run.
I heard him shout. → He was heard to shout. / She helped me cook. → I was helped to cook.
- **Questions with by + question word** (eg. who(m), which)
eg. Who wrote the letter? →
By whom was the letter written? / Who was the letter written by?
- With **verbs of preference** (eg. hate, love, like etc.) or other **verbs+gerund**, we keep the main verb the same and change only the gerund into the passive form (being + past participle).
eg. I hate people lying to me. → I hate being lied to.