**How to make the Passive in English**

We make the passive by putting the verb 'to be' into whatever tense we need and then adding the past participle. For regular verbs, we make the past participle by adding 'ed' to the infinitive.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense** | **Active** | **Passive** |
| [present simple](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-simple.html) | I **make** a cake. | A cake **is made** (by me). |
| [present continuous](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-continuous.html) | I **am making** a cake. | A cake **is being made** (by me). |
| [past simple](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple.html) | I **made** a cake. | A cake **was made** (by me). |
| [past continuous](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-continuous.html) | I **was making** a cake. | A cake **was being made** (by me). |
| [present perfect](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-perfect.html) | I **have made** a cake. | A cake **has been made** (by me). |
| [pres. perf. continuous](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-perfect-continuous.html) | I **have been making** a cake. | A cake **has been being made** (by me). |
| [past perfect](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-perfect.html) | I **had made** a cake. | A cake **had been made** (by me). |
| [future simple](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/simple-future.html) | I **will make** a cake. | A cake **will be made** (by me). |
| [future perfect](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/future-perfect.html) | I **will have made** a cake. | A cake **will have been made** (by me). |

**Verbs with two objects**

Some verbs that have two objects can make two different active sentences, and so two different passive sentences too:  
  
Active: He gave me the book

Passive: I was given the book (by him)/ The book was given to me (by him).

Other verbs like this are: ask, offer, teach, tell, lend, promise, sell, throw.

Activity: Turn these Active sentences into Passive ones.

1) The government is planning a new road near my house.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) By this time tomorrow we will have signed the deal.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) The traffic might have delayed Jimmy.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) At six o'clock someone was telling a story.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5) Somebody must have taken my wallet.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6) The boss showed the new computer to Anna.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The passive in subordinate clauses**

* Active: I thought that Mary had kissed John.
* Passive: I thought that John had been kissed by Mary.
* Active: He knew that people had built the church in 1915.
* Passive: He knew that the church had been built in 1915.

You can also make the passive using a passive gerund or a passive infinitive in the same place as a normal gerund or infinitive.

* The child loves people cuddling him
* The child loves being cuddled.
* She would like her boss to promote her.
* She would like to be promoted.

Activity: Turn these Active sentences into Passive ones.

1) It seems that someone cleaned the office on Tuesday.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) I don't like people seeing me in my pyjamas.

3) My little niece loves people chasing her.

4) Is it the case that someone sent the report on time?

5) I understand that someone fired John.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6) I like someone looking after me when I'm ill.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7) They claim that someone stole the money.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8) Could you feed the dog?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9) Did Sue draw this circle?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**