

# PASSIVE VOICE

## Definition:

**The Passive Voice** is used when the subject of a sentence is unknown, not important or when the object of this sentence has more importance than the subject itself.

Three simple steps are followed to form the Passive Voice:

- ✓ The Object *becomes Subject*.
- ✓ \*Be\* *in the active voice tense*.
- ✓ The Past participle *of the main verb*.

## Notice:

1)- Somebody cleans (*present*) the room. (Active Voice)

The room is (*present*) cleaned (p.p). (Passive Voice)

2)- They built this house in 1996. (Active Voice)

This house was built in 1996. (Passive Voice)

The following chart should be taken into consideration :

<u>TENSES</u>	<u>ACTIVE VOICE</u>	<u>PASSIVE VOICE</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Simple present</li> <li>Present progressive</li> <li>Present perfect</li> </ul>	She <b>helps</b> John She <b>is helping</b> John She <b>has helped</b> John	<i>Optional</i> John <b>is helped</b> (by her). John <b>is being helped</b> (by her). John <b>has been helped</b> (by her).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Simple past</li> <li>Past progressive</li> <li>Past perfect</li> </ul>	She <b>helped</b> John She <b>was helping</b> John She <b>had helped</b> John	John <b>was helped</b> (by her). John <b>was being helped</b> (by her). John <b>had been helped</b> (by her).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Simple future</li> <li>Be going to</li> <li>future perfect</li> </ul>	She <b>will help</b> John She <b>is going to help</b> John She <b>will have helped</b> John	John <b>will be helped</b> (by her). John <b>is going to be helped</b> . John <b>will have been helped</b> .



### N.B : Passive construction with the infinitive

- With verbs such as “say, believe, think, know, perceive, assume, show, consider, expect, report, etc;”, the passive is formed in two ways:

e.g. People say that mobile phones are harmful to children’s health. (active)

**It is said** that mobile phones are harmful to children’s health.

**OR** Mobile phones **are said to be** harmful to children’s health.

When the information is in the past, we use The passive + Perfect infinitive

e.g. They report that he won the game. (active)

He is reported **to have won** the game.



**I- Rewrite the following sentences in their passive voice form**

- 1- They ate spaghetti for dinner last night.
- 2- The poet is writing a poem for the occasion.
- 3- We should bring our books from the public library.
- 4- The wind had destroyed all the trees.
- 5- Everyone must bring a notebook next Monday.
- 6- The men were cutting the grass.
- 7- Somebody broke the window.
- 8- The teams can play the match next week.
- 9- The police stopped me while I was driving home.
- 10- Has anybody shown you the new machine?

**II- Rewrite the following sentences as suggested**

1. When we got to the airport, we found that they had cancelled our flight.

When we got to the airport we found .....

2. They offered Mary the job but she refused.

Mary .....

3. Most scientists believe that current environmental catastrophes are due to global climatic changes.

It .....

4. We are going to give you plenty of time to decide.

You .....

5. Some people say that extraterrestrials visit our planet from time to time.

Extraterrestrials .....

6. I think somebody is following us.

I think .....

7. People say that Stevens converted to Islam.

Stevens .....

8. Rich countries aren't doing anything to eradicate poverty in the world.

Nothing .....

9. Scientists have made great progress in genetic studies.

Great progress .....