

## Passive

### A) Recognizing Active and Passive Sentences

*Read the following sentences. Underline the verb or verbs in each sentence and then indicate whether the verb is active or passive and also which verb tense is being used.*

Ex. This hotel was built in 1950.                      passive – past tense  
    People speak Spanish in Mexico.              active – present tense

1. All the food at the party was eaten. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I fed the cat last night. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The mail is delivered every day. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The mailman delivers our mail in the morning. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The meeting will be held in the conference room. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The mechanic has already fixed my car. \_\_\_\_\_
7. John's car is being fixed right now. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Twenty people were invited to the party. \_\_\_\_\_
9. They will make a decision at the meeting. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The wind blew down the trees. \_\_\_\_\_

### B) Change the active sentences in the exercise above to passive. (Include the example.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Passive Voice with Different Tenses and with Modal Verbs

### A. Change the following sentences to passive voice.

1. simple present                      People speak English in Australia.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. present continuous                They are writing the report now.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. simple past                            The dog bit the mailman.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. past continuous                    He was still fixing the car when I arrived at the garage.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. future                                 Someone will give us a tour of the museum.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. future with “going to”            They are going to tear down the old building.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. present perfect                    They have already given him the bad news.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. past perfect                         They had built the houses before the war started.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. modal “can”                         They can finish the project on time.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. modal “have to”                    You have to send the parcel today.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. modal “should”                    You should sweep the floor every day.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. modal “must”                      You must wear your seatbelt at all times.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. modal “might”                    They might complete the new bridge by next year.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. modal “may”                        They may contact you this week.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Using the passive voice, complete the following sentences with the correct tense of the verb provided or a suitable modal verb.**

1. My car is at the service station. It \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) right now.
2. Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ (serve) at 7:00 last night.
3. Your check \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ (deposit) in the bank.
4. The newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ (deliver) before 6:00 A.M. everyday.
5. The book \_\_\_\_\_ (publish) in 1950.
6. The patient \_\_\_\_\_ (examine) by a surgeon tomorrow.
7. The question \_\_\_\_\_ (discuss) at our next meeting.
8. Twenty new workers \_\_\_\_\_ (hire) last month.
9. There are not enough hospitals in our area. A new hospital \_\_\_\_\_ (build) soon. (use a modal)
10. When you go through customs at the airport, your bags \_\_\_\_\_ (search). (use a modal)
11. Hundreds of people \_\_\_\_\_ (injure) in the train accident last week.
12. Your library books \_\_\_\_\_ (return) in three weeks. (use a modal)

## Passive with Present Tense and Present Progressive

Change the following sentences from active to passive.

*Ex. People speak many different languages in Canada.  
Many different languages are spoken in Canada.*

*Ex. She is serving dinner now.  
Dinner is being served now.*

1. Someone cleans the office everyday.

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2. This restaurant bill includes service.

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3. Mark drives his wife to work everyday.

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4. We need honest politicians in our government.

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5. Someone feeds the dog everyday.

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6. We wash the floors often.

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7. People grow oranges in California.

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8. They are painting my house now.

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9. Someone is using the telephone now.

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10. I am sending the e-mail right now.

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## Active Vs. Passive – Past Tense

**Form an active and passive sentence using the groups of words provided below.**

*Ex. Leonardo da Vinci / paint / the Mona Lisa  
Leonardo da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa.  
The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci.*

1. Lee Harvey Oswald / kill / President Kennedy / 1963

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2. Alexander Graham Bell / invent / the telephone.

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3. John Lennon / write / the song “Imagine”

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4. Tsunami / kill / many people / in Indonesia.

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5. Karl Marx / write / Das Kapital

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6. The Allies / defeat Germany / in 1945.

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## Passive with Present Perfect Tense

**Mr. Donald is at the service station picking up his car. The mechanic is giving him a report about all the work that has been done on his car. Using the words provided, describe the work that has been completed. (Use the passive voice in the present perfect tense.)**

*Ex. oil/change*

*The oil has been changed.*

1. tire pressure / check

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2. tires / rotate

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3. brake pads / inspect

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4. spark plugs / clean

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5. radiator fluid / change

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6. windshield wiper fluid / add

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7. broken headlight / replace

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8. entire car / clean (inside and out)

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## Passive with Future Tense and Present Perfect Tense

Fill in the blanks with the correct tense of the passive voice using the verbs provided.

1. You have to bring your own food to the school picnic next weekend.  
Only drinks \_\_\_\_\_ (provide).
2. The report \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) by the end of the week.
3. I was planning to clean the office today but I see that it  
\_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ (do). Did you clean it?
4. You don't have to pack any towels for your trip. The towels \_\_\_\_\_ (supply) by the hotel.
5. John applied for a new job yesterday, but he doesn't know if he will get it.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ (notify) next week.
6. There was a bad car accident a few minutes ago, but I think an ambulance  
\_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ (call).
7. The meeting \_\_\_\_\_ (cancel) three times already this week.
8. The garbage \_\_\_\_\_ (not, collect) tomorrow because it's a holiday.
9. Poor Johnny! He \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) the truth about his feelings.
10. Don't sit on that bench! It \_\_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_\_ (paint).
11. I bought a new sofa yesterday, but it \_\_\_\_\_ (not, deliver) until next week.
12. He is a very popular politician. I'm sure he \_\_\_\_\_ (re-elect) next year.
13. This is not a very safe area. Ten houses \_\_\_\_\_ (rob) in the past month.
14. He is a very dangerous criminal, but fortunately, he  
\_\_\_\_\_ finally \_\_\_\_\_ (arrest).
15. Mrs. Lyle is still in the hospital, but I think she \_\_\_\_\_ (release) next week.

## Passive Voice – Negative

Using the words provided, write sentences in the negative form of the passive.

*ex. They are going to send the package by regular mail. (not, express)  
It won't be sent express mail. or It isn't going to be sent express mail.*

1. The police are going to release the boy. (not / put / in jail)

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2. I cooked the chicken in the oven. (not / barbecue)

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3. The company president delivered the news in person. (not / send by e-mail)

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4. She makes the cake with oil. (not / make / with butter)

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5. The police gave him a warning. (not / give / speeding ticket)

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6. You should wash the sweater in cold water. (not / put in dryer)

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7. He started the fire by accident. (not / start / on purpose)

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8. They will sign the contract next month. (not / sign / tomorrow)

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9. I should take these pills with a meal. (not / take / on an empty stomach)

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## Passive Voice – Questions

Ask questions using the information provided and the passive voice.

Ex. There was a bad car accident yesterday. (*how many / people / injure*)

How many people were injured?

1. Many new employees are starting work tomorrow. (*how many / new people / hire*)

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2. Mr. Brooks is going to fire his secretary. (*why / she / fire*)

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3. You shouldn't wash that jacket. (*how / it / clean*)

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4. My favorite TV program was cancelled last night. (*what / program / show / instead*)

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5. The police found the stolen car. (*where / it / find*)

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6. They will deliver the package tomorrow. (*what time / it / deliver*)

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7. They are going to hold this meeting in Room 21. (*where / next meeting / hold*)

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8. The company has sold 100 cars this month. (*how many / cars / sell / last month*)

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9. The war lasted five years. (*how many people / kill*)

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10. Someone took my wallet. (*how much money / take*)

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## Active Vs. Passive

Complete the sentences with the words provided.

Some sentences are active and some are passive. Use the correct tense.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (send) a birthday card to my girlfriend last week.
2. Three people \_\_\_\_\_ (injure) in the accident yesterday.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ (contact) by the company next week.
4. The dentist said, "That tooth \_\_\_\_\_ (must/pull) right away."
5. My house \_\_\_\_\_ (rob) last week, but fortunately the police \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the thief yesterday and most of my stolen things \_\_\_\_\_ (find).
6. There was a bad fire yesterday. Three houses \_\_\_\_\_ (destroy), but fortunately, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (have) house insurance.
7. The book \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) before the author died.
8. Your plants \_\_\_\_\_ (should/water) twice a week.
9. English \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) all over the world nowadays.
10. A strange man \_\_\_\_\_ (seen) in the neighborhood before the robbery took place.
11. This sweater \_\_\_\_\_ (should, wash) by hand.
12. He didn't go to the party because he \_\_\_\_\_ (not, invite).
13. The picnic \_\_\_\_\_ (cancel) yesterday because of the rain.
14. We \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a bus to the game yesterday because our car \_\_\_\_\_ (fix).
15. She \_\_\_\_\_ (apply) to the best university in the country last month. Yesterday she heard that her application \_\_\_\_\_ (accept).
16. This jar of jam \_\_\_\_\_ (can, keep) at room temperature if it is not opened. Once you open it, it \_\_\_\_\_ (must, refrigerate).

## Review of Passive Voice – Find Someone Who

### A. Walk around the classroom and interview your classmates. Find someone.....

1. who has been injured in a car accident. \_\_\_\_\_
2. who has been bitten by a dog. \_\_\_\_\_
3. who was born in April. \_\_\_\_\_
4. who knows what language is spoken in Brazil. \_\_\_\_\_
5. who was given a gift last month. \_\_\_\_\_
6. whose wallet has been stolen. \_\_\_\_\_
7. whose mail is delivered in the morning. \_\_\_\_\_
8. who has been taken to a hospital in an ambulance. \_\_\_\_\_
9. who was invited to a party last week. \_\_\_\_\_
10. who can name three famous world leaders who were assassinated in the past 100 years. \_\_\_\_\_
11. who knows where the next winter Olympics will be held. \_\_\_\_\_
12. who has been given a parking ticket or a speeding ticket in the past year. \_\_\_\_\_
13. who has never been stung by a bee. \_\_\_\_\_
14. who knows when the electric light bulb was first used. \_\_\_\_\_
15. who was driven to school today. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. More Conversation

Follow up each of your questions from the previous exercise with another question of your own using **either the active or the passive voice**.

- Ex. 1. Have you ever been injured in a car accident? Were you seriously injured?  
2. Have you ever been bitten by a dog. What kind of dog bit you?  
3. Were you born in April? When is your birthday? or What day were you born on?  
etc.

## Answers

### Page 1.

- A. 1. passive – past tense 2. active – past tense 3. passive – present tense 4. active – present tense 5. passive – future tense  
6. active – present perfect tense 7. passive – present progressive 8. passive – past tense 9. active – future tense 10. active – past tense

- B. **Example: Spanish is spoken in Mexico.** 2. The cat was fed last night. 3. The mail is delivered in the morning. 6. My car has already been fixed.  
9. A decision will be made at the meeting. 10. The trees were blown down by the wind.

### Page 2.

1. English is spoken in Australia. 2. The report is being written now. 3. The mailman was bitten by the dog. 4. The car was still being fixed when I arrived at the garage. 5. We will be given a tour of the new museum. 6. The old building is going to be torn down. 7. He has already been given the bad news. 8. The houses had been built before the war started. 9. The project can be finished on time. 10. The parcel has to be sent today. 11. The floor should be swept every day. 12. A seatbelt must be worn at all times. 13. The bridge might be completed by next year. 14. You may be contacted this week.

### Page 3.

1. is being repaired. 2. was served. 3. has / been deposited 4. is delivered 5. was published 6. will be examined (or) is going to be examined.  
7. will be discussed (or) is going to be discussed. 8. were hired 9. needs to be built 10. need to be searched 11. were injured 12. need to be returned.

### Page 4.

1. The office is cleaned everyday. 2. Service is included with this bill. 3. Marks wife is driven to work everyday. 4. Honest politicians are needed in government. 5. The dog is fed everyday. 6. The floors are washed often. 7. Oranges are grown in California. 8. My house is being painted now. 9. My telephone is being used now. 10. The email is being sent right now.

### Page 5.

1. Lee Harvey Oswald killed president Kennedy in 1963. / President Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963. 2. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. / The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell. 3. John Lennon wrote the song *Imagine*. / The song *Imagine* was written by John Lennon. 4. The tsunami killed many people in Indonesia. / Many people were killed by the tsunami in Indonesia. 5. Karl Marx wrote *Das Kapital*. / *Das Kapital* was written by Carl Marx. 6. The Allies defeated Germany in 1945. / Germany was defeated by the Allies in 1945.

### Page 6.

1. The tires have been checked. (or, The tire pressure has been checked.) 2. The tires have been rotated. 3. The brake pads have been inspected. 4. The spark plugs have been cleaned. 5. The radiator fluid has been changed. 6. The windshield wiper fluid has been added. 7. The broken headlight has been replaced. 8. The entire care has been cleaned inside and out.

### Page 7.

1. are provided 2. will be finished 3. has / been done 4. are supplied 5. will be notified 6. has / been called 7. has been canceled  
8. will not be collected 9. has / told 10. was / painted 11. won't be delivered 12. will be reelected 13. have been robbed 14. has / been arrested  
15. will be released

### Page 8.

1. The boy will not be put in jail. 2. The chicken wasn't barbecued. 3. The news was not sent by email. 4. The cake is not made with butter. 5. He was not given a speeding ticket. 6. The sweater should not be put in the dryer. 7. The fire wasn't started on purpose. 8. The contract won't be signed tomorrow. 9. The pills should not be taken on an empty stomach.

### Page 9.

1. How many new employees will be hired? 2. Why is she going to be fired? 3. How should it be cleaned. 4. What program will be shown instead?  
5. Where was it found? 6. What time will it be delivered? 7. Where will the next meeting be held? 8. How many cars were sold last month?  
9. How many people were killed? 10. How much money was taken?

### Page 10.

1. sent 2. were injured 3. will be contacted 4. must be pulled 5. was robbed / caught / were found 6. were destroyed / has  
7. had / been completed 8. should be watered 9. is spoken 10. was seen 11. should be washed 12. was not invited 13. was canceled  
14. took / was being fixed 15. applied / was accepted 16. can be kept / must be refrigerated.