

Passive Voice

Lesson 3 – Level 4

Passive Voice

Why use the Passive?

- **To emphasize the object or party receiving the action**
 - Rebekah was selected for a free gift.
- **To emphasize the action instead of the actor**
 - Our car was repaired by our neighbor.
- **When the agent (doer) is unknown**
 - Her house was broken into last night.
- **When the agent (doer) is unimportant**
 - Gas prices were raised again last week.
- **To be discreet or tactful by not naming the agent**
 - The keys were misplaced again!

Passive Voice

Structure

- There are two main rules to all Passive Voice forms
 1. Add the verb “**Be**” in the same tense as the sentence in its active voice form
 2. Use the **Past Participle** form of the main verb
- There are two additional rules for the Passive Voice
 1. In Continuous/Progressive tense sentences add the continuous form of “Be” which is “**being**”
 - *Ex: More homes are **being** built this year.*
 2. In all Perfect tenses and Perfect Modals use the Past Participle form of “Be” which is “**been**”
 - *Ex: Gifts **have been** given out already.*
 - *Ex: My sister **should have been** told about the party.*

Passive Voice

Simple Present

Active

- I **walk** the dogs everyday.
- Millions of people **watch** the Super Bowl.
- People **write** many letters to the President.

Passive

- The dogs **are walked** everyday.
- The Super Bowl **is watched** by millions of people.
- Many letters **are written** to the President.

Passive Voice

Present Continuous

Active

- I **am walking** the dogs.
- Millions of people **are watching** the Super Bowl.
- People **are writing** many letters to the President.

Passive

- The dogs **are being walked**.
- The Super Bowl **is being watched** by millions of people.
- Many letters **are being written** to the President.

Passive Voice

Simple Past

Active

- I **walked** the dogs.
- Millions of people **watched** the Super Bowl.
- People **wrote** many letters to the President.

Passive

- The dogs **were walked**.
- The Super Bowl **was watched** by millions of people.
- Many letters **were written** to the President.

Passive Voice

Present Perfect

Active

- I've **walked** the dogs already.
- Millions of people **have watched** the Super Bowl.
- People **have written** many letters to the President.

Passive

- The dogs **have been walked** already.
- The Super Bowl **has been watched** by millions of people.
- Many letters **have been written** to the President.

Passive Voice

Modals

Active

- I **should walk** the dogs everyday.
- More people **should have watched** the Super Bowl.
- People **should write letters** to the President.

Passive

- The dogs **should be walked** everyday.
- The Super Bowl **should have been watched** by more people.
- Letters **should be written** to the President.

Ready to put it into practice?

Active or Passive?

Tell whether the sentence is Active or Passive

- The man was hunted by the police.
- The great battle was fought in 1814.
- The soft grass cushioned my fall.
- The doughnuts were made by the new baker.
- A car ran over my cat.
- The clown's funny antics reduced us to laughter!

Active or Passive?

Tell whether the sentence is Active or Passive

- A number of horses had been stolen by thieves.
- The fire burned the house to the ground.
- The kidnappers stole John's baby.
- Everyone received presents at the party..
- You shouldn't have been stressed out by this quiz.

Recent News

Rewrite the news story using the passive voice or active voice where appropriate

Apple Fights Back Against Virus



Think your Apple computer is immune? Think different.

A nasty malware called Flashback has infected approximately 600,000 Macintosh computers worldwide. It used a Java security flaw. Apple is hard at work on a fix, the company said Tuesday.

The company said that Apple is developing software that will detect and remove the Flashback malware.

Apple Fights Back Against Virus



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Software that will detect and remove the Flashback malware **is being developed by** Apple.

North Korea Fuels Rocket

North Korea fueled up a rocket Wednesday in preparation for an imminent launch.

North Korea named Kim Jong Un the Worker's Party top official and gave his late father the title of "Eternal General Secretary."

Chief of Command, Paek Chang Ho, said the rocket is ready for liftoff as soon as he gives the green light to the engineers. The rocket launch has raised tensions internationally.

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Tornado Rips Through Oklahoma – Kills 5 people

A tornado ripped through a northwestern Oklahoma town Saturday. The tornado killed at least 5 people. The tornado killed a man and his two daughters: ages 5 & 7. The tornado destroyed the trailer park where they lived.

The other victims were another man and his 10 year-old daughter who lived in a town about 2 miles away. And a helicopter flew another man to a nearby hospital in Texas.

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English Journey



*Produced by Jeffrey Ballein for
English Journey*

