

Passive

Consider these sentences:

Neha **sings** a song.

A song **is sung** by Neha.

- ◆ In the first sentence, the verb (sings) shows that the subject (Neha) does the action. Such a verb is said to be in the **Active Voice**.
- ◆ In the second sentence the verb (is sung) shows that the action is done to the subject (song). Such a verb is said to be in the **Passive Voice**.
- ◆ Both these sentences express the same meaning, but they are written in different forms.

What beautiful dresses,
Ritu! Where did you get
them from?

My parents gave me this
dress on my birthday. The
other dress was gifted by
my uncle.



In this brief conversation between two friends, Ritu speaks two sentences:

1. My parents **gave** me this dress on my birthday.
2. The other dress **was gifted** by my uncle.

In sentence 1, the verb (**gave**) shows that the subject (My parents) does the action. Thus, the verb 'gave' is in the **Active Voice**.

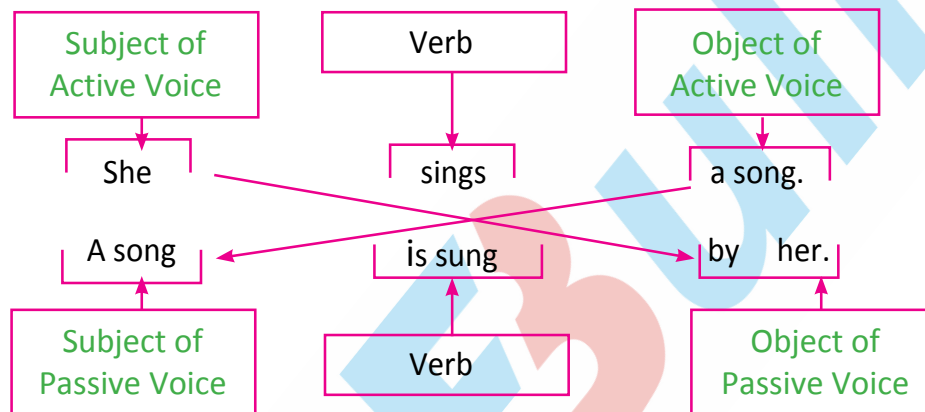
In sentence 2, the verb (**was gifted**) shows that the action is done to the subject (the other dress). Thus the verb 'was gifted' is in the **Passive Voice**.

Only transitive verbs can have two voices—the active and the passive, because they take an object.

- When the subject of a transitive verb does some action, the verb is said to be in the *Active Voice*.
- When the subject of a transitive verb receives the action, the verb is said to be in the *Passive Voice*.

Active to Passive Voice

Study the following sentences:



General Rules for Making Passive Voice

1. The object of the verb in the active voice becomes the subject of the verb in the passive voice.
2. The past participle (third form of the verb) is used with a suitable form of 'be'.
3. Preposition 'by' is used before the object of the passive voice.
4. Finally, the subject in the active voice takes the place of object in the passive voice.

Study the following sentences:

Tense Present

Active Voice

Passive Voice

Simple Past

Nidhi **sings** a song.

A song **is sung** by Nidhi.

Simple Future

Nidhi **sang** a song.

A song **was sung** by Nidhi.

Simple Present

Nidhi **will sing** a song.

A song **will be sung** by Nidhi.

Cont. Past Cont.

Nidhi **is singing** a song.

A song **is being sung** by Nidhi.

Nidhi **was singing** a song.

A song **was being sung** by Nidhi.

Future Cont.	Nidhi will be singing a song.	
Present Perfect	Nidhi has sung a song.	A song has been sung by Nidhi.
Past Perfect	Nidhi had sung a song.	A song had been sung by Nidhi.
Future Perfect	Nidhi will have sung a song.	A song will have been sung by Nidhi.

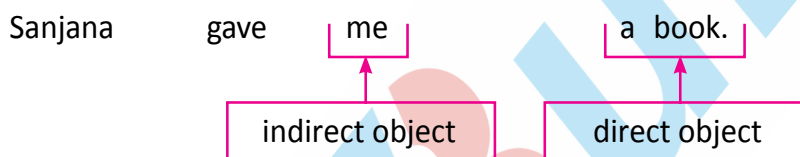
◆ Some Other Rules for Changing Voice

1. If a verb is followed by a preposition (verb + preposition), we retain the preposition with the verb in passive voice.

I **will look into** the matter.

The matter **will be looked into** by me.

2. If a transitive verb has two objects in active voice, we can make passive voice by using either of the objects.



- (i) I **was given** a book by Sanjana.
- (ii) A book **was given** to me by Sanjana.