



Active and Passive Voice

Introduction

Voice shows whether the subject of a sentence performs the action (Active Voice) or receives the action (Passive Voice).

Active Voice

- The subject performs the action.

Example: Neha painted the house.

→ Neha is the subject and the doer of the action.

Passive Voice

- The subject receives the action.

Example: The house was painted by Neha.

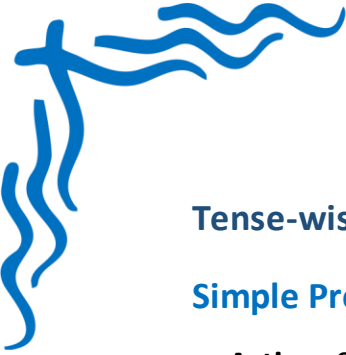
→ The house (object in active) becomes the subject here.

General Rules for Transformation

- Object of the Active Voice becomes the Subject in Passive.
- Use an appropriate form of “to be” + past participle.
- The original subject becomes a “by” phrase if needed.
- Only transitive verbs (those with objects) can be changed into passive.

Pronoun Changes

Subject (Active)	Object (Passive “by” phrase)
I	me
we	us
you	you
he	him
she	her
it	it
they	them



Tense-wise Changes

Simple Present

- **Active:** She sings a song.
- **Passive:** A song is sung by her.
- **Structure:** is/am/are + past participle

Simple Past

- **Active:** He wrote a letter.
- **Passive:** A letter was written by him.
- **Structure:** was/were + past participle

Simple Future

- **Active:** She will buy a car.
- **Passive:** A car will be bought by her.
- **Structure:** shall/will be + past participle

Present Continuous

- **Active:** He is eating an apple.
- **Passive:** An apple is being eaten by him.
- **Structure:** is/am/are + being + past participle

Present Perfect

- **Active:** He has finished the work.
- **Passive:** The work has been finished by him.
- **Structure:** has/have been + past participle

Past Perfect

- **Active:** She had solved the puzzle.
- **Passive:** The puzzle had been solved by her.
- **Structure:** had been + past participle



Future Perfect

- **Active:** He will have read the book.
- **Passive:** The book will have been read by him.
- **Structure:** will/shall have been + past participle

Special Forms

Tenses That Cannot Be Changed into Passive:

- Present Perfect Continuous
- Past Perfect Continuous
- Future Continuous
- Future Perfect Continuous

Modals

Structure: modal + be + past participle

- **Active:** She can lift the box.
- **Passive:** The box can be lifted by her.

Examples:

- may/might → A mango may be eaten.
- should/must → This must be done.
- ought to → Help ought to be given.

Imperative Sentences

- **Active:** Open the door.
- **Passive:** Let the door be opened.
(or) The door should be opened.

Interrogative Sentences

Type	Active	Passive
Yes/No question	Did he eat rice?	Was rice eaten by him?
Wh-question (Who)	Who wrote the letter?	By whom was the letter written?
Wh-question (Other)	Why are you washing the car?	Why is the car being washed by you?



Ditransitive Verbs

- **Active:** She gave me a book.
- **Passive:**
 - I was given a book by her.
 - A book was given to me by her.

Passive with Verbs + Prepositions

- **Active:** He looked at the picture.
- **Passive:** The picture was looked at by him.

Summary Chart of Passive Voice Forms

Tense	Passive Structure
Simple Present	is/am/are + past participle
Simple Past	was/were + past participle
Present Continuous	is/am/are + being + past part.
Present Perfect	has/have been + past part.
Past Perfect	had been + past part.
Simple Future	will/shall be + past part.
Future Perfect	will/shall have been + past part.
Modals	modal + be + past part.