



# Active and Passive Voice

## Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn to differentiate between active and passive voice.
- They will convert sentences from active to passive voice and vice versa.
- They will understand the contexts where passive voice is appropriate.



## Lead in

See the picture and write one more sentence for each—in first sentence, the subject and object are clear and in second sentence, the object has become the subject and the subject has become the object.

(a)



(a) The girl is eating an apple.

(b) An \_\_\_\_\_ is being eaten by the \_\_\_\_\_.

(b)



(a) Father buys vegetables.

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ are bought by \_\_\_\_\_.

## Active and Passive Voice

**A Transitive Verb has two voices:**

1. Active Voice
2. Passive Voice

**Read the following sentence:**

Neha **painted** the entire house.

What is the action performed? painting.

What is the subject of the verb painted? Neha.

Who performs the action of painting? Neha.

So, in this sentence, the subject of the verb performs the action mentioned in the verb.

This sentence, therefore, is said to be in the **Active Voice**.



## Grammar Byte

- ◉ When the subject is the doer of an action, it is said to be in the **Active Voice**.



Now, read the following sentence.

The entire house was painted by Neha.

What is the action performed? painting.

What is the subject of the verb painted? The entire house.

Does the subject perform the action of painting?

No, instead the subject, the entire house, receives the action of painting.

We know that it is Neha who performs the action. Hence, this sentence is said to be in the **Passive Voice**.



## Grammar Byte

- When the subject of a verb receives the action, the sentence is said to be in the **Passive Voice**.

### Rules to Change Sentences from Active to Passive

- The object of the verb in the active voice becomes the subject of the verb in the passive voice.
- The subject of the verb in the active voice becomes a proportional phrase in the passive voice (by + the active subject)
- The verb in the active voice changes into a suitable auxiliary + past participle form.



## Grammar Byte

- Since the object of the verb in the **active voice** becomes the subject of the **passive voice**, it follows that only **transitive verbs** can be used in the passive voice because an **intransitive verb** has no object.

### Change of Pronouns

Pronouns are changed in the following manner in the passive voice:

Subject in the Active Voice	Object in the Passive Voice (by-agent phrase)
I	me
we	us
you	you
he	him
she	her
it	it
they	them





## Ditransitive Verbs

When the verb in the active voice is **Ditransitive**, there are two forms in the passive voice.

### Example :

She gave me a pen (Active)

(indirect object) (direct object)

I was given a pen by her.

or, A pen was given to me by her. (Passive)

Normally, the first form is preferred.

## Verbs Followed by Prepositions

Active verbs followed by prepositions retain them when they are converted into passive voice.

### Examples :

He did not **look at** me. (Active)

I was not **looked at** by him. (Passive)

## Interrogative Sentences

When interrogative sentences are changed into passive voice, they retain their interrogative form.

### Examples :

Do you **eat** rice? (Active)

Is rice **eaten** by you? (Passive)

## Simple Present

1. We **play** cricket. (Active)

Cricket is **played** by us. (Passive)

2. **Do** we **play** cricket? (Active)

Is cricket **played** by us? (Passive)

3. **Who** **plays** cricket? (Active)

**By whom** is cricket **played**? (Passive)

**Who** is cricket **played by**? (Passive)



## Grammar Byte

- There is no need to add 'by me' in every passive sentence if the listener knows that you are the doer of an action.



## Grammar Byte

### In Simple Present Tense

- Active voice** : root form of the verb (sometimes with -s or -es) eat, play
- Passive voice** : is/are/am + past participle of the verb  
is/am/are eaten, is/am/are played

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

1. Do you write letters?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. She opens the door.

\_\_\_\_\_



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3. He plays the guitar.

4. My mother makes delicious cookies.

**B. Fill in the blanks with the passive form of the verbs given in the brackets. (in simple present tense)**

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (dislike) by him.
2. An orange \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) by Deepa.
3. Children \_\_\_\_\_ (look after) by their parents.
4. English \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) by Deepak.



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**Simple Past**

1. Divya **accepted** the invitation. (Active)  
The invitation **was accepted** by Divya. (Passive)
2. **Did she tell** a story? (Active)  
**Was** a story **told** by her? (Passive)
3. **Who answered** the questions? (Active)  
**By whom were** the question **answered**? (Passive)  
**Who were** the questions **answered by**? (Passive)



**Grammar Byte**

**In Simple Past Tense**

- ◉ **Active Voice** : past tense form of the verb  
accepted, told
- ◉ **Passive Voice** : was/were + past participle form of the verb  
was accepted, was told, were accepted

**C. Fill in the blanks with passive voice form of the verbs given in the brackets. (in simple past tense)**

1. Four umbrellas \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) by her.
2. The prize \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ (win) by Rachna.
3. A song \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) by Shreya.
4. My father's car \_\_\_\_\_ (stole) by a thief.

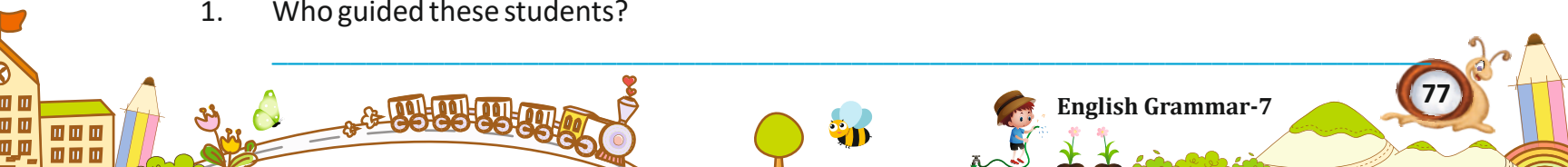


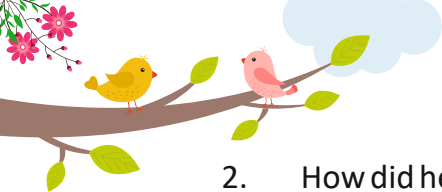
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**D. Change the following sentences from active to passive voice.**

1. Who guided these students?





2. How did he find the address?

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3. She did not eat any chocolate.

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4. The teacher corrected the mistakes.

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### Simple Future

1. Priyanka **will solve** the puzzle. (Active)  
The puzzle **will be solved** by Priyanka. (Passive)
2. When will she pay the fee? (Active)  
**When will** the fee **be paid by** her? (Passive)



### Grammar Byte

#### In Simple Future Tense:

- ◉ **Active Voice** : *shall/will + root form of the verb*  
*will solve, will pay*
- ◉ **Passive Voice** : *shall be + will be + past participle form of the verb*  
*will be solved, will be paid*

### E. Change the following sentences into passive voice.

1. Disha will order the model.

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2. My uncle will buy a new car.

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3. Kavita will play the piano.

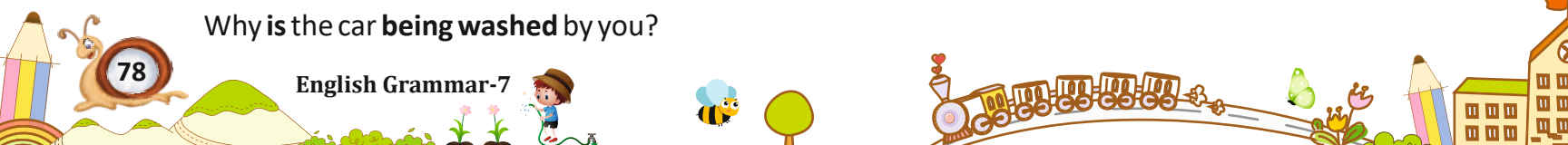
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4. Sumona will invite Rajat to the party.

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### Present Continuous Tense

1. My mother **is writing** a letter.  
A letter **is being written** by my mother.
2. **Are** they **discussing** the problems?  
**Are** the problems **being discussed** by them?
3. **Why are** you **washing** the car?  
**Why is** the car **being washed** by you?





## Grammar Byte

### In Present Continuous Tense:

- ◉ **Active Voice** : *is/are/am + -ing form of the verb*  
*is writing, are discussing, is washing*
- ◉ **Passive Voice** : *is/are/am + being + past participle form of the verb*  
*is being written, are being discussed*

### F. Change the following sentences into passive voice.

1. Who is telling a story?

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2. Is she singing a song?

---

3. He is not running the race.

---

4. She is driving a car.

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### Future Continuous Tense

Verbs in the future continuous tense cannot be expressed in the passive voice.

### Present Perfect Tense

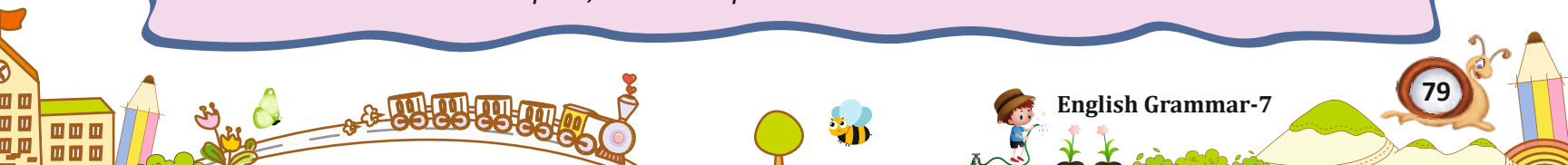
1. He **has paid** the bill. (Active)  
The bill **has been paid** by him. (Passive)
2. **Who has opened** the door? (Active)  
**By whom has the door been opened?** (Passive)  
or  
**Who has the door been opened by?** (Passive)



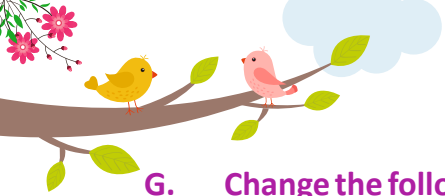
## Grammar Byte

### In Present Perfect Tense

- ◉ **Active voice** : *has/have + past participle form of the verb*  
*has paid, has opened*
- ◉ **Passive voice** : *has been + have been + past participle form of the verb*  
*has been paid, has been opened*







**G. Change the following sentences from active to passive voice.**

1. Have you kept the secret?

---

2. I have composed a poem.

---

3. The girls have drawn the pictures.

---

4. They have finished the job.

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**Past Perfect Tense**

1. She **had bought** a car.

A car **had been bought** by her.

2. Who had solved the puzzle?

By whom **had** the puzzle **been solved**?

Who **had** the puzzle **been solved** by?



**Grammar Byte**

**In Past Perfect Tense**

◉ **Active voice** : *had + past participle form of the verb*  
*had bought, had solved*

◉ **Passive voice** : *had been + past participle form of the verb*  
*had been bought, had been solved*

**H. Change the following sentences into passive voice.**

1. Had you learnt the lesson?

---

2. We had received the parcel.

---

3. She had accepted the offer.

---

4. He had eaten breakfast.

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## Future Perfect Tense

1. She **will have eaten** her dinner. (Active)  
Her dinner **will have been eaten** by her. (Passive)
2. **Will he have sold** the house? (Active)  
**Will the house have been sold** by him? (Passive)



## Grammar Byte

### In Future Perfect Tense

- ◉ **Active voice** : will/shall + have + past participle form of the verb  
will have eaten, will have sold
- ◉ **Passive voice** : will/shall + have been + past participle form of the verb  
will have been eaten, will have been sold

### I. Change the following sentences from active to passive voice.

1. Who will have repaired the car?

---

2. Will the cat have drunk the milk?

---

3. They will have rescued the boy.

---

4. She will have learnt her lesson.

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## Perfect Continuous Tenses

Verbs in the perfect continuous tense cannot be expressed in the passive voice.

### Modals (can, could, may, might, should, would, must, ought to)

1. He **can drive** a bike. (Active)  
A bike **can be driven** by him. (Passive)
2. She **may eat** a mango. (Active)  
A mango **may be eaten** by her. (Passive)
3. You **should buy** this watch. (Active)  
This watch **should be bought** by you. (Passive)
4. You **ought to help** her. (Active)  
She **ought to be helped** by you. (Passive)







## Grammar Byte

### With Modals

- ◉ **Active voice** : modal auxiliary + root form of the verb  
can drive, may eat, should buy
- ◉ **Passive voice** : modal auxiliary + be + past participle form of the verb  
can be driven, may be eaten, should be bought

### J. Change the following sentences from active voice to passive voice.



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1. You may help the kids.

---

2. He should start a job.

---

3. She might read a book.

---

4. You must learn this lesson.

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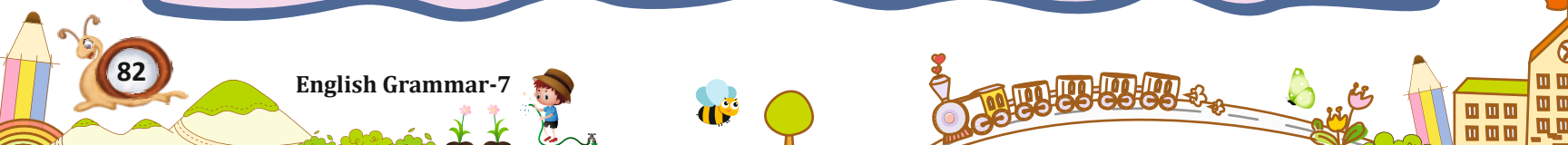
### Imperative Sentences

1. **Throw** the ball. (Active)  
**Let** the ball **be thrown**. (Passive)  
The ball **should be thrown**. (Passive)
2. **Open** the book. (Active)  
**Let** the book **be opened**. (Passive)  
The book **should be opened**. (Passive)



## Grammar Byte

- ◉ **Active voice** : The sentence begins with the root form of the verb  
throw, open
- ◉ **Passive voice** : Let + object + be + past participle form of the verb  
Let the ball be thrown  
Let the book be opened.  
object + should be + past participle form of the verb  
The ball should be thrown. The book should be opened.





**K. Change the following sentences from active voice to passive voice:**

1. Open the window.

---

2. Learn the lesson.

---

3. Collect nice books.

---

4. Obey your parents.

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5. Respect the teachers.

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## Points to Remember

- When the subject is the doer of an action, it is said to be in the **Active Voice**.
- When the subject of the verb receives the action, the sentence is said to be in the **Passive Voice**.
- The object of the verb in the active voice becomes the subject of the verb in the **Passive Voice**.



## My Activity Corner

Change the sentence from active voice to passive voice.

1. J.K. Rowling wrote the Harry Potter Series.

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2. Sarita told Neha the truth.

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3. The wind blew away Rohit's cap.

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## My EeeBee Interactive Activities



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Grammar



Vocabulary

WRITE YOUR SCORE

Practice your LSRW Skills



on Communication Lab

