

ENGLISH TENSES

USING PASSIVE VOICE



PASSIVE VOICE THEORY

• FORMATION OF PASSIVE

RULE 1

➤ The English **passive** is built by **changing** the **word order** and the **verb**.

WORD ORDER: The **object becomes** the **subject**.

VERB: The **verb changes** to the appropriate form of **be + past participle**.

ACTIVE			PASSIVE		
SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT	SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT
Mrs Harris	cooks	our meals.	Our meals	are cooked	by Mrs Harris.
Peter	saw	her.	She	was seen	by Peter.

➤ All active tenses can be put into passive. However, the **progressive forms** of the **present perfect**, **past perfect**, **future** and **future perfect** are not used in passive constructions.

TENSE	ACTIVE	PASSIVE (form of be + past participle)
PRESENT SMP	Peter does the washing up every day.	The washing-up is done by Peter every day.
PRESENT PROG	They are digging up the road at the moment.	The road is being dug up at the moment.
PAST SMP	Sally invited me for dinner.	I was invited for dinner by Sally.
PAST PROG	They were repairing the road during the holidays.	The road was being repaired during the holidays.
PAST PERFECT SMP	They ran away after they had broken the window.	They ran away after the window had been broken .
PRES PERFECT SMP	I haven't baked the cake yet.	The cake hasn't been baked yet.
WILL FUTURE	They will open the museum in September.	The museum will be opened in September.
GOING TO FUTURE	I'm going to paint my room.	My room is going to be painted .
FUTURE PERF SMP	I will have done everything by Tuesday.	Everything will have been done by Tuesday.

➤ The passive also occurs with **modal verbs**: **modal verb / substitute form + be + past participle**

• BY ... WITH PASSIVES

RULE 2

➤ We only use the **by ... construction** if the **doer** (*Handlungsträger*) is really **important**.

Dad **does** the washing-up.

The washing up **is done by Dad**.

They **speak** English all over the world.

English **is spoken** all over the world (~~by them~~).

➤ We ask with **Who ... by?** for the doer.

Who was the book written **by**?

Who have you been invited **by**?

• VERBS WITH TWO OBJECTS

RULE 3

➤ Some **verbs** (*bring, buy, get, give, lend, promise, send, show* etc) can have **two objects**: a **person** and a **thing**. Two structures are therefore possible in active and passive.

I gave **her** a present.

She was given a present.

I gave a present **to her**.

A present was given **to her**.

PASSIVE VOICE EXERCISES (RULE NO. 1)

(1) BUILD PASSIVE TENSES

01.	I / help	past simple	present progressive
02.	it / lose	past progressive	going to future
03.	they / can / buy	future simple	present simple
04.	it / may / read	future perfect simple	present perfect simple
05.	she / must / help	past perfect simple	future simple