

# Active and passive voice

**voice**



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graph TD; voice[voice] --- active[active]; voice --- passive[passive];
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**active**

**passive**

**What subject does**

**The focus is  
on the action.**

**Active : Ram killed Ravan**

**Passive : Ravan was killed by Ram.**

**How to change from active to passive?**

**Look at this statement**

**Ram killed Ravan**

Subject      verb      object

**Ravan was killed by Ram.**

object      be verb      verb 3      Subject

**Active : Ram killed Ravan**

**Passive : Ravan was killed by Ram.**

**She helps him.**

**He is helped by her.**

I am buying a pen.

A pen is being bought by me.

He has to teach us. We have to be taught by him

Someone is following us.

We are being followed.

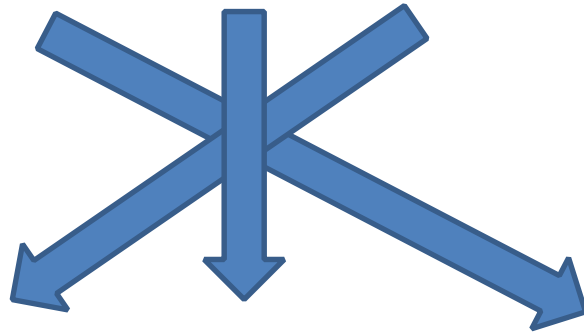
Very common rule is:

Active = sub +v + ob

Passive = object + be+ v3 + by sub

- Bring the object first    object +
- Choose correct 'be' verb    'be' verb+ verb 3+
- Change verb into participle    by +
- Add by + subject    subject

**She helps him.**



**He is helped by her.**

# Look, how subject and object change:



## Subject      Object

I	Me
We	Us
You	You
They	Them
He	Him
She	Her

Ram

Book

Ram

Book

If there are two objects:



Use any  
one

She told usa story.

**We** were told a story by her.

**A story** was told to us by her

They appointed himan ambassador.

**He** was appointed an ambassador.

An ambassador was appointed to him.

The story has taught us a good lesson.

We have been taught a good lesson by the story.

A good lesson has been taught to us by the story.

has/ have/ had/ is/ am/ are/ was/ were +  
to + v1

She has to help us.

*We have to be helped by her.*



**We have to learn English.**

**English has to be learnt.**

**I had to wait the bus.**

**The bus had to be waited by me.**

*has, have, had to + v1 =*

*has, have, had + to be + v3*

**Modal auxiliary verbs**

*can, could, shall, should, may,  
might, will, would, must*

**+ v1 = modal + be + v3**

She can speak Chinese.

Chinese can be spoken by her.

We must preserve the tigers.

Tigers must be preserved .

**must have , should have, could have,  
might have, would have + v3 =**

**must have , should have, could have,  
might have, would have + been + v3**

**He should have stolen my pen.**

**My pen should have been stolen by him.**

**They must have left any sign.**

**Any sign must have been left.**

**No need to add 'by + sub' if the  
subject is :**

**we , they, someone, somebody,  
none, nobody, everybody, people ect**

**They have stolen my pen.**

**My pen has been stolen.**

**They must have left any sign.**

**Any sign must have been left.**



## Negative sentences remain negative

**They have not stolen my pen.**

**My pen has not been stolen.**

**They must not have left any sign.**

**Any sign must not have been left.**

**Nobody has done homework.**

# Look at the table

Homework has not been done.

Active	Passive
simple present ( v1/ v5)	ob+ is/ am/ are + v3
Present continuous ( is, am, are, v3 v ing)	ob + is/ am/ are + being +
Present perfect ( has / have +	ob + has/ have + been + v3 v3)
Present perfect ( has/ have +	Not used commonly been + v

ing ) **She is cooking rice.**

**She writes beautiful poems.**

**cooked by her.**

**Rice is being**

# Look at the table

Beautiful poems are written by her. **He**  
**has done homework.**

**Homework has been done by him.**

Active	Passive
simple past ( v2)	ob+ was/ were + v3
Past continuous was/ were v ing)	ob + was/ were + being + v3
Past perfect ( had + v3)	ob + had+ been + v3
Past perfect ( had + been + v ing )	Not used commonly



## Look at the table

She was cooking rice.

She wrote beautiful poems. Rice was being  
cooked by her.

Beautiful poems were written by her. He  
had done homework.

**Homework had been done by him.**

simple

future ( will/ shall +v1)

Future continuous (will/ shall  
+ be + v ing)

Future perfect ( will / shall +  
have + v3)

# Look at the table

Future perfect (will/ shall +  
have + been + v ing )

ob + will / shall + have been +  
v3)

**Passive ob+**

**Not used commonly**

will/ shall + be + v3 not  
common in passive

She will write beautiful poems.

Beautiful poems will be written by her.

He will have done homework.



## Look at the table

**Homework will have been done by  
him.**

# Look at these examples

She will write poems

beautifully. Poems will be

beautifullywritten by her.

beautifully adverb goes just

before verb 3

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He handled the load carefully.

The load was carefully handled by  
him.



## Passive of 'yes / No' question

**Can you speak English?**

**Can English be spoken  
by you?**

**Has he helped them?**

**Have they been helped by him?**

**Did you help him?**

**Was he helped by you?**

**Do/ does + sub+ v1+  
ob= Is/ am/ are + ob +  
v3**

**Did + sub+ v1 + ob =  
Was/were+ obj + v3**

**some example of yes/**

**no**

**Are they planting trees?**

**Are trees being planted**

**?**



**Did they tell  
anything? Was  
anything told?**

**Didn't he buy  
anything? Wasn't  
anything bought by  
him?**

**will he bring the  
book? will the book  
be brought by him?**

**Passive of wh question**

Why are they planting trees?

Why are trees being planted

Similar to ? yes /no What did they tell you? What were you told?



Who questions are changed in 2 ways.

**Who opened the door?**

**Who was the door opened by?**

**By whom was the door opened ?**

**Passive of who  
question**

**Who opened the door?**

Who was **the door** opened  
by?

By whom was **the door** opened ?

who + be + ob+ v3 +  
by?



**By whom + be + ob + v3 ?**

**Passive of imperative**

**/ let**

**open      the door?**

**Let   the door be  
opened.**

Let + object + be  
+ verb 3

Let him open the door?

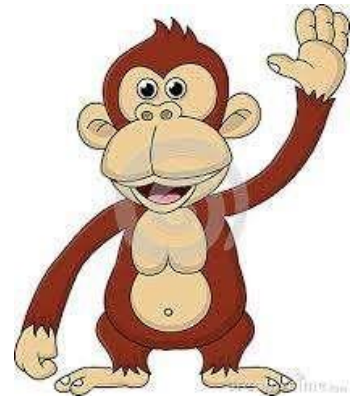
Let the door be opened by him.

**Let + object + be + verb 3 +  
by + sub Voice change : some  
examples**

**Did you teach us ?**

**Were we taught by you?**

**She has to prepare food.**





Food has to be prepared by her.

Who told you about the accident?

By whom were you told about the accident?

**People are destroying the  
jungle.**

**The jungle is being destroyed.**