

The PASSIVE

What is it:

You use the **PASSIVE** if you want to focus on an **action**. It is not important who is performing the action.

How to build it:

form of **be** + **3rd form** of the verb

Examples Present Simple:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Steve builds a house.	A house is built (by Steve).
Martha sings lovely songs.	Lovely songs are sung (by Martha).
We grow vegetables in our garden.	Vegetables are grown in our garden.

Examples Past Simple:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Susan wrote a letter.	A letter was written (by Susan).
I did my homework.	My homework was done .
We bought nice souvenirs.	Nice souvenirs were bought .

PRESENT SIMPLE & PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE

- 1) Active or passive? Circle the correct answer in the sentences and then name them by circling: Active or Passive.

- | | | |
|---|--------|---------|
| 1 The movies make / are made in Hollywood. | Active | Passive |
| 2 They visited / were visited by their grandmother. | Active | Passive |
| 3 The librarian reads / is read books to the students. | Active | Passive |
| 4 The rent paid / was paid last night. | Active | Passive |
| 5 My cousin looks after / is looked after my little sister. | Active | Passive |
| 6 Henry Ford invented / was invented the assembly line in 1976. | Active | Passive |

- 2) Fill in the sentences with the Present Simple Passive.

- 1 Milk _____ (use) to make butter and cheese.
- 2 I _____ (give) a gift after each school year.
- 3 The children _____ (not teach) French at our school.
- 4 Flies _____ (catch) by spiders.
- 5 The shop _____ (close) on Saturday and Sunday.
- 6 We _____ (tell) jokes by our physics teacher.

- 3) Make Past Simple Passive sentences using the following prompts.

- 1 The football match / win / by the team from London

- 2 They / invite / to the birthday party last Friday.

- 3 The house / not sell / last month.

- 4 Visitors / ask / to turn their mobile phones off.

- 5 My friends / find / by the police after they got lost.

- 6 The old lady / bite / by John's dog.

Fill in the sentences with the present passive or the past passive

1. This safe _____ (not open) for twenty years.
2. English _____ (speak) all over the world.
3. Many accidents _____ (cause) by dangerous driving.
4. In the United States, elections for President _____ (hold) every four years.
5. Originally the book _____ (write) in Spanish a few years ago.
6. The roof of the building _____ (damage) in a storm a few days ago.
7. A cinema is a place where films _____ (show).
8. The battle of Hastings _____ (fight) in 1066.
9. The park gates _____ (lock) at 6.30 p.m. every evening.
10. The film _____ (shoot) under the supervision of the director.
11. Colour films _____ (introduce) in the late 1920s.
12. A black belt _____ (wear) by judo masters.
13. The accused _____ (take) to court yesterday.
14. Children _____ (teach) by parents and teachers.
15. Olives _____ (grow) in Dalmatia.

_____/15

Turn these active sentences into the passive sentences

1. Fishermen catch fish.

2. Levi Strauss invented the blue jeans.

3. They built that skyscraper in 2001.

4. Children drink a lot of milk.

5. Poachers kill pandas for their coats.

6. People help the stranded whales.

PASSIVE VOICE: PRESENT AND PAST

1) CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION

- a. The Eiffel tower ... is built / ... was built in 1887.
- b. The floors ... are mopped / ... were mopped every day.
- c. The David statue ... was sculpted / ... were sculpted by Michelangelo.
- d. *Starry Night* ... is painted / ... was painted by Van Gogh.
- e. Oranges ... was grown / ... are grown in Spain.

2) DECIDE WETHER THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES ARE CORRECT (C) OR INCORRECT (I)

- a. Aspirin are used to relieve pain. _____
- b. Saint Paul's Cathedral was designed by Christopher Wren. _____
- c. The first crossword puzzle is published in 1913. _____
- d. The fax machine wasn't used very much nowadays. _____
- e. Champagne is made in France _____

3) FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE CORRECT PASSIVE FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS

- a. The first credit card _____ by the Diner's Club. (issue)
- b. This room _____ every morning. (not clean)
- c. Stamps _____ in the Post Office. (sell)
- d. Where _____ those shoes _____? (make)
- e. My wallet _____. (not steal)

4) TRANSFORM THESE SENTENCES INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE

- a. The police stopped me last night.

- b. A computer controls the heating.

- c. Elton John sang *Crocodile Rock*.

- d. Argentina didn't win the first world cup.

- e. Did Michael Jackson compose *Thriller*?
