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# *PASSIVE VOICE*

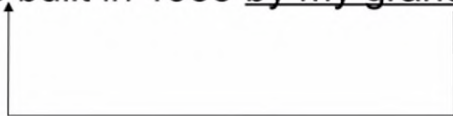
- **Active voice** is used when we say what the subject does.

My grandfather built this house in 1935.



- **Passive voice** is used when we say what happens to the subject.

This house was built in 1935 by my grandfather.



- Passive voice is used when **the focus is on the action**. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.  
My bike was stolen.
- Sometimes a statement in passive is **more polite** than active voice.  
A mistake was made. (You made a mistake)

## FORM:

When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following:

✓ The **object of the active sentence** becomes **the subject of the passive sentence**

We wrote **a letter**

**A letter** was written by us.

✓ The **finite form of the verb is changed**

Finite form of to be + Past Participle

We **wrote** a letter

A letter **was written** by us.

## **PRESENT SIMPLE PASSIVE VOICE**

***is / are + vb pple***

I **write** ***a composition*** every week.

***A composition*** **is written** every week by me.

I **write** ***four compositions*** every month.

***Four compositions*** **are written** every month by me.

## **PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE VOICE**

**was / were + vb pple**

I **wrote** *a composition* last week.

*A composition* **was written** last week by me.

I **wrote** *four compositions* last month.

*Four compositions* **were written** last month by me.

- ✓ The **subject of the active sentence** either becomes **the agent** of the passive sentence (with **preposition by**) or it is **dropped**.

**We** wrote a letter

**Somebody** sends me a lot of flowers.

A letter was written **by us**. A lot of flowers are sent to me

REMEMBER TO CHANGE PRONOUNS (SUBJECT – AGENT COMPLEMENT)

*PERSONAL PRONOUNS*

*OBJECT PRONOUNS*

*I*  
*YOU*  
*HE*  
*SHE*  
*IT*  
*WE*  
*YOU*  
*THEY*

*ME*  
*YOU*  
*HIM*  
*prep. + HER*  
*IT*  
*US*  
*YOU*  
*THEM*

*Elena is my teacher = **She** is my teacher.*

*This novel was written **by** David Lodge.*

*This novel was written **by** *him*.*



subject

verb

object

He opens the door.

The door is opened by him.

subject

verb

agent

1 Mayan \_\_\_\_\_ in many regions in Guatemala and southern Mexico.

a. speaks

b. is spoke

c. is spoken

2 The match \_\_\_\_\_ by 4.1 million people.

a. was watched

b. was watch

c. watched

3 Manchego cheese \_\_\_\_\_ in La Mancha, Spain.

a. produced

b. is produced

c. produces

4 The authorities \_\_\_\_\_ them about the incident.

a. informed

b. were informed

c. were inform

5 Who \_\_\_\_\_ this novel?

a. was written

b. wrote

c. did write

1 Somebody found him in the South of Spain ⇒ He  in the South of Spain.

2 Did anyone lock the door last night? ⇒  last night?

3 They paint the house every five years. ⇒  every five years.

4 They made the robot with three sensors. ⇒  with three sensors.

5 Someone found my keys in the street. ⇒  in the street.

6 Someone injured two police officers during the incident. ⇒  during the incident.

7 They postponed the match because of the rain. ⇒  because of the rain.

8 They teach students to show respect. ⇒  to show respect.

9 The major operators sell the mobile phones. ⇒  by the major operators.

10 They learn something new every day. ⇒  every day.