

# The difference between active and passive voice

Examples of active voice and passive voice with meanings

Learn the difference between active voice and passive voice



## What's the difference between active and passive voice



### Active



Someone cleans the office every day.

My boss doesn't ask me to work late.



Someone painted our house last month.

The noise did not wake me up.

### Present

am / is / are + past participle

The office is cleaned every day.

I am not asked by my boss to work late.

### Past

was / were + past participle

Our house was painted last month.

I was not woken up by the noise.



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## Voices of the verb meaning

In English grammar, voices of verb are defined by the standard of verb and signals whether the subject acts or is acted upon.

There are two types of voices:-

Active voice.

Passive voice.

### What is active voice?

Active voice is what is known as "normal" voice. This is the voice that we use most of the time.

When using active voice, the object will receive the action of the verb.

*Jason posted the letter.*

	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>
<i>Active voice</i>			>
	Jason	posted	the letter.

### What is passive voice and when to use it?

The passive voice is not used as much as active voice but is just as important.

When using the passive voice, the subject will receive the action of the verb.

You use passive voice when you need to make the active object more important.

We do not know the active subject

The letter was mailed by Marilyn.

**Subject**

**Verb**

**Object**

*Passive*

<

*The letter*

*was posted*

*by Jason.*



## Difference between active and passive voice



# ACTIVE VOICE and PASSIVE VOICE

The **active voice** of a verb tells us that someone (or something) does the action in a sentence.

James watered the flowers.



The **passive voice** of a verb tells us that someone (or something) has an action done to them.

The flowers were watered by James.

Sarah finished the homework.



The homework was finished by Sarah.

The puppy chewed the shoe.



The shoe was chewed by the puppy.



Can you change this sentence so the verb is in the passive voice?

The horse ate the carrot.

Can you change this sentence so the verb is in the active voice?

The book was written by Sam.



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English with Eva

ACTIVE:	I subject	WRITE verb	A LETTER object
PASSIVE:	A LETTER subject	IS WRITTEN verb	BY ME. object
TENSE	ACTIVE	PASSIVE	
PRESENT SIMPLE	I write a letter	A letter is written	
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	I am writing a letter	A letter is being written	
PAST SIMPLE	I wrote a letter	A letter was written	
PAST CONTINUOUS	I was writing a letter	A letter was being written	
PRESENT PERFECT	I have written a letter	A letter has been written	
PAST PERFECT	I had written a letter	A letter had been written	
FUTURE SIMPLE	I will write a letter	A letter will be written	
FUTURE BE GOING TO	I am going to write a letter	A letter is going to be written	
MODAL	I must write a letter	A letter must be written	
MODAL PERFECT	I should have written a letter	A letter should have been written	

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## Passive voice structure examples



ACTIVE	PASSIVE	TIME REFERENCE
They make Fords in Cologne	Fords are made in Cologne	Present Simple
Susan is cooking dinner	Dinner is being cooked by Susan	Present Continuous
James Joyce wrote "Dubliners"	"Dubliners" was written by James Joyce.	Past Simple
They were painting the house when I arrived.	The house was being painted when I arrived.	Past Continuous
They have produced over 20 models in the past two years.	Over 20 models have been produced in the past two years.	Present Perfect
They are going to build a new factory in Portland.	A new factory is going to be built in Portland.	Future Intention with Going to
I will finish it tomorrow.	It will be finished tomorrow.	Future Simple



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