

# Passive



Look at the differences between active and passive verb forms in the main tenses. Notice that the verb TO BE always remains in the original tense (the one in the active form) and a past participle follows.

VERB TENSE	ACTIVE FORM	PASSIVE FORM
Present simple	Ann <u>teaches</u> English	English <u>is taught</u> by Ann
Present continuous	Ann <u>is teaching</u> English	English <u>is being taught</u> by Ann
Past simple	Ann <u>taught</u> English	English <u>was taught</u> by Ann
Past continuous	Ann <u>was teaching</u> English	English <u>was being taught</u> by Ann
Present perfect	Ann <u>has taught</u> English	English <u>has been taught</u> by Ann
Past perfect	Ann <u>had taught</u> English	English <u>had been taught</u> by Ann
Future simple	Ann <u>will teach</u> English	English <u>will be taught</u> by Ann
Future perfect	Ann <u>will have taught</u> English	English <u>will have been taught</u> by Ann
Infinitive	Ann is going <u>to teach</u> English	English is going <u>to be taught</u> by Ann
Gerund / Present participle	<u>Teaching</u> is fun	<u>Being taught</u> is fun

**REMEMBER:** The passive voice is used to emphasize what is done rather than who does it or when the doer is not known. Only transitive verbs have passive forms (verbs like *run, go, sleep, live* or *die* only have active forms)



Complete the following chart with the missing forms of a new example:

VERB TENSE	ACTIVE FORM	PASSIVE FORM
Present simple	They <u>send</u> a present	A present ...
Present continuous	They <u>are sending</u> a present	...
Past simple	They <u>sent</u> a present	...
Past continuous	...	A present was being sent
Present perfect	They <u>have sent</u> a present	...
Past perfect	...	A present had been sent
Future simple	They <u>will send</u> a present	...
Future perfect	...	A present will have been sent
Infinitive	They are going <u>to send</u> a present	...
Gerund / Present participle	...	Being sent a present is nice

Now, try to make the following sentences passive. Remember that very often an agent is not necessary.

- They will buy the milk tomorrow. ...
- They make these cars in China. ...
- You mustn't touch this wire. ...
- Have you done it? ...
- We are cleaning the room. ...
- They have published your poems! ...
- A lot of people speak English. ...
- Somebody had seen the ghost. ...
- Somebody emptied the bin. ....
- The police are going to arrest him. ....
- That man scratched my car! ...



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Complete the following chart with the missing forms of a new example:

VERB TENSE	ACTIVE FORM	PASSIVE FORM
Present simple	They send a present	A present is sent
Present continuous	They are sending a present	A present is being sent
Past simple	They sent a present	A present was sent
Past continuous	They were sending a present	A present was being sent
Present perfect	They have sent a present	A present has been sent
Past perfect	They had sent a present	A present had been sent
Future simple	They will send a present	A present will be sent
Future perfect	They will have sent a present	A present will have been sent
Infinitive	They are going to send a present	A present is going to be sent
Gerund / Present participle	Sending a present is nice	Being sent a present is nice

Now, try to make the following sentences passive. Remember that very often an agent is not necessary.

- They will buy the milk tomorrow. ... The milk will be bought tomorrow
- They make these cars in China. ... These cars are made in China
- You mustn't touch this wire. ... This wire mustn't be touched
- Have you done it? ... Has it been done?
- We are cleaning the room. ... The room is being cleaned
- They have published your poems! ... Your poems have been published!
- A lot of people speak English. ... English is spoken by a lot of people
- Somebody had seen the ghost. ... The ghost had been seen
- Somebody emptied the bin. .... The bin was emptied
- The police are going to arrest him. .... He is going to be arrested
- That tall man scratched my car! ... My car has been scratched by that tall man!