

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Tutorat par les pairs en anglais langue seconde



Passive Voice

Tutor Annotated Lesson



2022

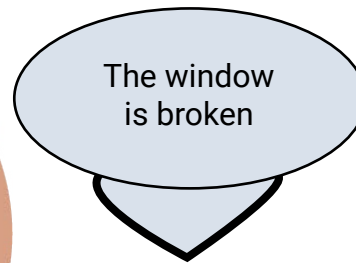
Québec 

STEP 1: Assessment

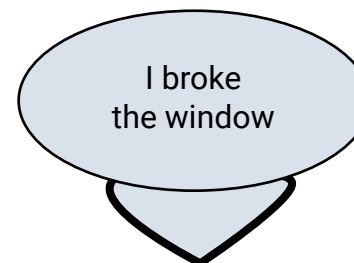
- What do you know about the passive voice?

STEP 2: Theory

- Which sentence in the bubbles is in the passive voice?



passive voice



active voice

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

- When would we say, "the window is broken"? *The doer of the action is unknown.*

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: **PASSIVE VOICE**

TIP

- If you have trouble forming the passive voice, click on the TIP above.

TIP **FORM:** Transform the active sentences into **passive sentences** in the chart below.

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple present	I make a mistake. He makes mistakes.	A mistake <i>is made</i> (by someone). Mistakes <i>are made</i> (by someone).
Present progressive	He is making a mistake.	<i>A mistake is being made</i> (by someone).
Simple past	He made a mistake.	<i>A mistake was made</i> (by someone).
Future/modals	He will make a mistake.	<i>A mistake will be made</i> (by someone).
Present perfect	He has made a mistake.	<i>A mistake has been made</i> (by someone).

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TIP

USE: In the list below, there are three uses of the passive voice. Place the correct use (just the letter) of the passive voice beside the appropriate example in the chart.

- a. The focus is on the result rather than the doer of the action, like in scientific, business or technical writing.
- b. The doer of the action is unknown, unimportant or obvious.
- c. The speaker wants to be polite or evasive about who is responsible.

Use	Example
c	• A mistake has been made in the report (by someone).
a	• A vaccine was made against Corona virus.
b	• My shoes were made in Italy.

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

EXERCISE 1: Complete the following sentences in **the passive voice**. Then, ask your tutor the questions.

1. My t-shirt (**make**) *was made* in Bangladesh.
 - Where was your T-shirt made?
2. When (**invent**) *was* the Internet *invented* ?
 - Do you know when the Internet was invented?
3. I (**be born, not**) *wasn't born* in Canada.
 - Were you born in Canada?
4. My favorite book (**write**) *was written* by Margaret Atwood.
 - Who was your favourite book written by?
5. Who (**make**) *are* the best cellphones *made* by?
 - Who is your cellphone made by?

EXERCISE 2: Form questions in **the passive voice** using the cues. Then, ask your tutor the questions and get their opinions.

E.g. (where- the best movies- make) Where are the best movies made?

1. (who- the best films- direct by)

Who are the best films directed by?

2. (which sport – the most- play- in Canada)

Which sport is played the most in Canada?

3. (where- the best rock music- produce)

Where is the best rock music produced?

4. (when- electronic music-invent)

When was electronic music invented?

Vocabulary Review

- **What new words have you learned so far today?**

STEP 4: Production task

EXERCISE 3: Where do you stand? Explain your opinion about these debatable statements using **the passive voice**.

1. Children should be taught about sex education in Elementary school.
2. Social media must be regulated to protect people with low self-esteem.
3. Animals must not be kept in a zoo under any circumstance.
4. Health workers must not be forced to take the Covid vaccine.
5. Downloading music and movies shouldn't be banned.
6. Statues of controversial historical figures have to be destroyed.

STEP 5: Final Review

- What new words did you learn today?

• **Only** if necessary, ask the questions below.

- How do you form the passive voice? *be + past participle*
- What do you know now about the passive voice that you didn't know before?

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Tips

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TIP

Active Voice versus Passive Voice - Form		
Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple Present	I made a mistake. He makes mistakes	A mistake is made. Mistakes are made.
Present Progressive	He is making a mistake	A mistake is being made.
Simple past	He made a mistake.	A mistake was made.
Future/Modals	He will make a mistake.	A mistake will be made.
Present Perfect	He has made a mistake.	A mistake has been made.

Present perfect

He has made a mistake.

A mistake has been (by someone).

TIP

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TIP

FORM: Transform the active voice sentence into a passive voice sentence.

How do you make an active voice sentence into a passive voice sentence?		
	Active Voice Sentence: The mechanic discovered the problem.	
Tense	Step 1. Identify the object of the active sentence and make it into the subject of the passive sentence.	The problem (object) = subject of the passive sentence
Simple present	Step 2. Form the passive voice verb: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BE + past participle of the main verb Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure the verb BE agrees with the new subject • use the same verb tense as in the active sentence 	Was + discovered
Present progressive		
Simple past	Step 3. Add the BY + doer (if necessary).	by the mechanic
Future/modals		
	Passive Voice Sentence: The problems was discovered by the mechanic.	
Present perfect	He has made a mistake.	<i>A mistake has been</i> (by someone).

TIP



Passive Voice - Use

a. The focus is on the result rather than on the doer of the action, like in scientific, business or technical writing.	• A vaccine was made against Corona virus.
b. The doer of the action is unknown, unimportant or obvious.	• My shoes were made in Italy.
c. The speaker wants to be polite or evasive about who is responsible.	• A mistake has been made in the report (by someone).

(letter) of the passive voice

business or technical writing.

Use	Example
c	• A mistake has been made in the report (by someone).
a	• A vaccine was made against Corona virus.
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