

THE PASSIVE VOICE

in present simple and past simple

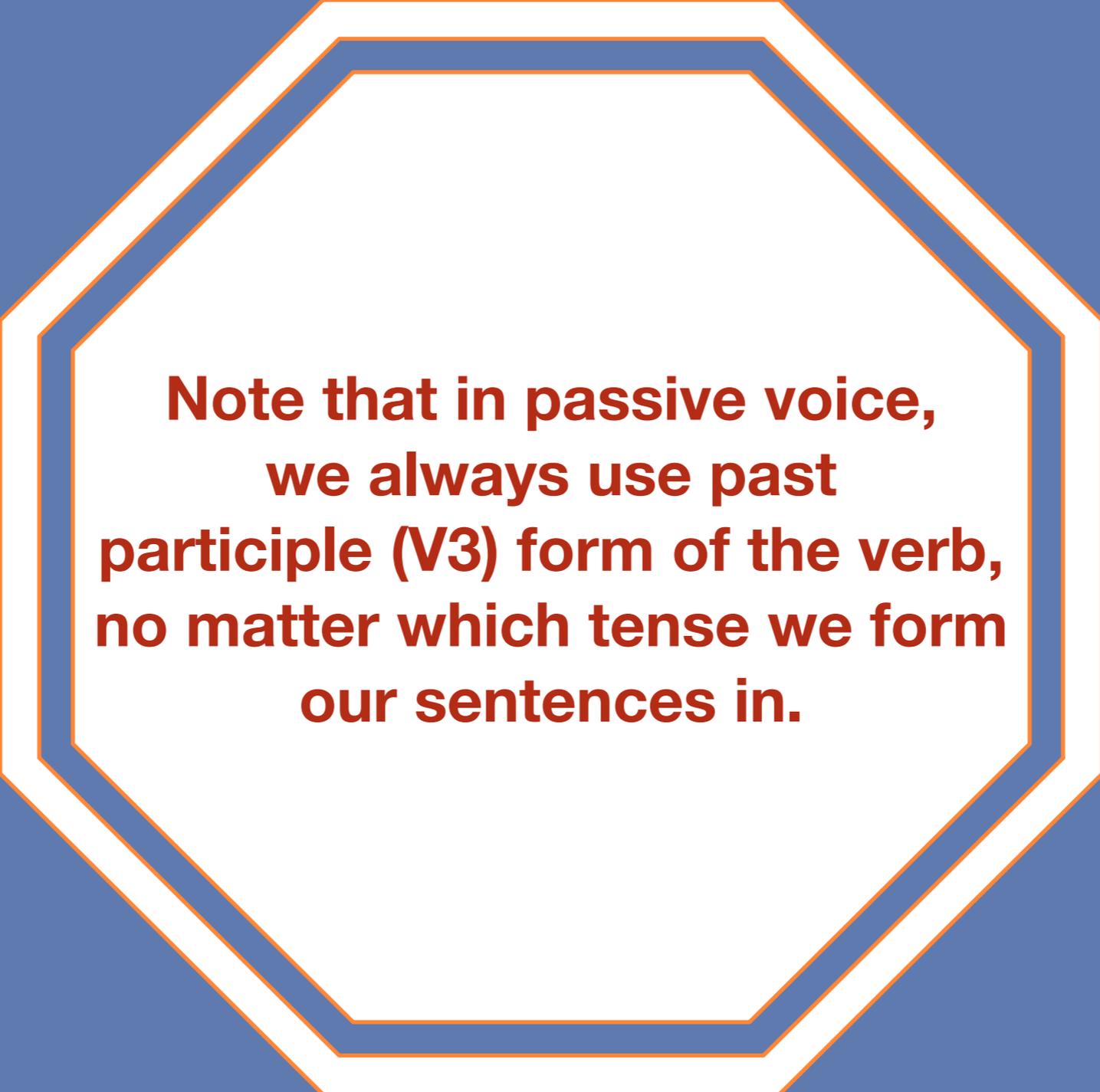
The passive voice is used to show interest in the object that experiences an action rather than the person or object that performs the action. In other words, the object of the sentence becomes the subject in passive voice.

Example:

Active: The firemen *put out* the fire yesterday.

Passive: The fire *was put out* by the firemen yesterday.

| SIMPLE PRESENT | SIMPLE PAST |
|--|--|
| S (Obj.) + be (am/is/are) + V3 | S (Obj.) + be (was/were) + V3 |
| e.g.: The goods are shipped from this pier <i>every month</i> . | e.g.: The goods were shipped from this pier <i>last month</i> . |



**Note that in passive voice,
we always use past
participle (V3) form of the verb,
no matter which tense we form
our sentences in.**

| TIME REFERENCE | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|----------------|--|--|
| Simple Present | People speak <i>English</i> in Australia. | <i>English</i> is spoken (by people) in Australia. |
| Simple Present | Elton John plays <i>the most expensive piano in the world</i> . | <i>The most expensive piano in the world</i> is played by Elton John. |
| Simple Past | My grandpa paid <i>everyone's lunch</i> . | <i>Everyone's lunch</i> was paid by my grandpa. |
| Simple Past | We ainted <i>our house</i> yesterday. | <i>Our house</i> was painted (by us) yesterday. |

Exercises:

1. How many books _____ (print) in Turkey every year?
2. Who _____ (this play / write) by?
3. German _____ (speak) in Germany, Austria, and part of Switzerland.
4. The royal wedding _____ (watch) by millions of people in 2011.
5. Nowadays, a lot of computers _____ (make) in Korea.
6. The *Harry Potter* films _____ (not direct) by Steven Spielberg.
7. How much paper _____ (recycle) in the UK each year?
8. In the US, alcohol _____ (not sell) to anyone under 21. It's against the law.
9. The world record in pole vault _____ (break) last year by the Peruvian athlete.
10. Most of Billie Eilish's songs _____ (write) by her brother.
11. Snoop Dogg _____ (consider) as the most famous thug in the world.
12. The Nobel Prize _____ (award) in many genres.

Answer Key:

1. How many books **are printed** (print) in Turkey every year?
2. Who **was this play written** (this play / write) by?
3. German **is spoken** (speak) in Germany, Austria, and part of Switzerland.
4. The royal wedding **was watched** (watch) by millions of people in 2011.
5. Nowadays, a lot of computers **are made** (make) in Korea.
6. The *Harry Potter* films **were not** (not direct) by Steven Spielberg.
7. How much paper **is recycled** (recycle) in the UK each year?
8. In the US, alcohol **isn't sold** (not sell) to anyone under 21. It's against the law.
9. The world record in pole vault **was broken** (break) last year by the Peruvian athlete.
10. Most of Billie Eilish's songs **are written** (write) by her brother.
11. Snoop Dogg **is considered** (consider) as the most famous thug in the world.
12. The Nobel Prize **is awarded** (award) in many genres.