

PASSIVE VOICE

We have two different voices in English:

Passive

Active

I will tell them to be careful.


I will be told to be careful.

Active


Passive

The subject performs
the action (verb).

The subject **doesn't**
perform the action
(verb).

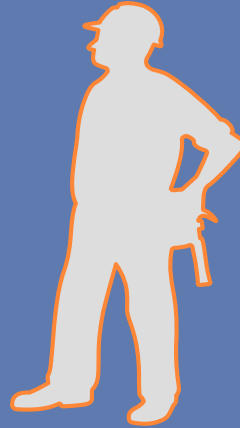


Our rights are
protected by the laws!



Hmm... So, the laws
protect our rights!

The two sentences above mean the same
thing in two different ways.



This vase was made in
China in 1788. (Passive)



They made this vase in China in
1788. (Active)

Note that the **object** of the active sentence
becomes the **subject** of the passive sentence.

In order to make
passive voice, we use:

**to be + Past Participle
of the verb (V3)**

The **to be verb** changes
according to the **tense**.

TENSE	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE	ACTIVE SENTENCE	PASSIVE EQUIVALENT
SIMPLE PRESENT	KEEP	IS KEPT	I KEEP THE BUTTER IN THE FRIDGE.	THE BUTTER IS KEPT IN THE FRIDGE.
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	IS KEEPING	IS BEING KEPT	JOHN IS KEEPING MY HOUSE TIDY.	MY HOUSE IS BEING KEPT TIDY.
SIMPLE PAST	KEPT	WAS KEPT	MARY KEPT HER SCHEDULE METICULOUSLY.	MARY'S SCHEDULE WAS KEPT METICULOUSLY.
PAST CONTINUOUS	WAS KEEPING	WAS BEING KEPT	THE THEATER WAS KEEPING A SEAT FOR YOU.	A SEAT WAS BEING KEPT FOR YOU.
PRESENT PERFECT	HAVE KEPT	HAVE BEEN KEPT	I HAVE KEPT ALL YOUR OLD LETTERS.	ALL YOUR OLD LETTERS HAVE BEEN KEPT .
PAST PERFECT	HAD KEPT	HAD BEEN KEPT	HE HAD KEPT UP HIS TRAINING REGIMEN FOR A MONTH.	HIS TRAINING REGIMEN HAD BEEN KEPT UP FOR A MONTH.
SIMPLE FUTURE	WILL KEEP	WILL BE KEPT	MARK WILL KEEP THE DOG.	THE DOG WILL BE KEPT .

My brother is taken well
care of **by doctors**.



If it is important to know the
performer of the action, we use:

By+(noun)

**E.g. Mona Lisa was painted by
Leonardo da Vinci.**

If the performer (agent) is not important, we don't mention it.

**E.g. This vase was
made in China.**

(We know that some people made it.)

Exercises - *Use the verbs in brackets in the passive voice, present or past:

1. Cheese _____ (make) from milk.
2. The roof of the building _____ (damage) in a storm a few days ago.
3. A cinema is a place where films _____ (Show) .
4. You _____ (invite) to the party. Why didn't you go?
5. Although we were driving fast, we _____ (overtake) by a lot of other cars.
6. This plant is very rare. It _____ (find) in very few places.

***Instead of using *somebody, they, people* etc., write a passive sentence.**

1. They cancelled all flights because of fog. All _____.
2. Somebody accused me of stealing money. _____ money.
3. How do you use this word? How _____ used?
4. The price includes all taxes. All _____ in the price.

Answer Key - *Use the verbs in brackets in the passive voice, present or past:

1. Cheese **is made** (make) from milk.
2. The roof of the building **was damaged** (damage) in a storm a few days ago.
3. A cinema is a place where films **are shown** (Show) .
4. You **were invited** (invite) to the party. Why didn't you go?
5. Although we were driving fast, we **were overtaken** (overtake) by a lot of other cars.
6. This plant is very rare. It **is found** (find) in very few places.

***Instead of using *somebody, they, people* etc., write a passive sentence.**

1. They cancelled all flights because of fog. All **flights were cancelled because of fog.**
2. Somebody accused me of stealing money. **I was accused of stealing** money.
3. How do you use this word? How **is this word** used?
4. The price includes all taxes. All **taxes are included** in the price.