

PASSIVE VOICE

Examples of Active and Passive Voice

Harry ate six shrimps at dinner.

(active)

At dinner, six shrimps were eaten by Harry.

(passive)

Beautiful giraffes roam the savannah.

(active)

The savannah is roamed by beautiful giraffes.

(passive)

The forest fire **destroyed** the whole suburb.
(active)

The whole suburb **was destroyed** by the forest
fire. (passive)

The staff **will watch** a safety video every year.
(active)

A safety video **will be watched** by the staff
every year. (passive)

She **faxed** her application for a new job.
(active)

The application for a new job **was faxed** by her.
(passive)

Can you fill in the blank boxes with the sentences by changing given active sentences into passive forms or vice versa?



ACTIVE	PASSIVE
The dog bit the girl.	The girl was bitten by the dog.
The wind blew out the candle.	
Peter bought some sweets.	
	The car was driven by Steve.
	The keys were stolen by the thief.
	This song was sung by the Beatles.

Now make up some of your own

Active	Passive
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Passive Voice Tenses Chart

Form	Object	A form of BE	Past participle
Simple Present Passive	The door	is	closed.
Simple Past Passive	Jurassic Park	was	directed by Steven Spielberg.
Future Passive (Will)	An English book	will be	given to passing students.
Future Passive (Going to)	A gift	is going to be	given to the best student.

Form	Object	A form of BE	Past participle
<u>Present Continuous Passive</u>	The suspect	is being	pursued.
<u>Past Continuous Passive</u>	He	was being	tortured.
<u>Present Perfect Passive</u>	The room	has been	cleaned.
<u>Past Perfect Passive</u>	The window	had been	broken.
<u>Passives With Modals</u>	All the rules	must be	obeyed.

PRACTICE:

Form passive voice in appropriate tenses for the following exercise.

1. (Pyramids / build / Egyptians)
2. (coffee / grow / in Brazil)
3. (chopsticks / use / in China)



4. (plants / water / every day)

5. (the robber / arrest / policeman / yesterday)

6. (injured marines / take to a hospital / now)



USE of PASSIVE VOICE

When you don't know the person who performs the action

The bank **was robbed**.

When it is not important who performs the action

Harvard University **was founded** in 1636.

When the performer is not a specific person

English **is spoken** in many countries
around the world.

When you prefer not to mention the name of the performer

I **was told** that you didn't go to work today.

Used with a performer: by + performer

The cake **was made** by my cousin.



More practice

**Read the news report, and
choose the correct verb form.**

1. Millions of dollars' worth of damage has been caused by a storm which (swept / was swept) across the north of the United States last night.

2. The River Reiner (burst / was burst) its banks after heavy rain.

3. Many people (rescued / were rescued) from the floods by firefighters.

4. Firefighters (received / were received) hundreds of calls for help.
5. Wind speeds (reached / were reached) ninety miles an hour in some places.
6. Roads (blocked / were blocked) by fallen trees.

7. Electricity lines (brought / were brought) down, leaving thousands of homes without electricity.
8. "Everything possible (is doing / is being done) to get things back to normal," a spokesman said.

9. One young girl (took / was taken) to hospital after she broke her leg.

10. She has now (sent / been sent) home.

Rewrite the sentences,
using passive voice.

1. Julia rescued three cats.

2. The students handed in the reports.

3. Maria crashed into the blue car.

4. Alex learned the poem.

5. Steven has forgotten the book.

6. The mechanic has not repaired the DVD recorder.

7. They play handball.

8. Sue puts the rucksack on the floor.

9. The girls had lost the match.

10. The teacher is not going to open the window.

Complete the sentences.

been prepared are made was opened
must be worn wasn't completed
has hasn't been told were paid
have you been invited was closed

1. The road _____.

We had to take a detour.

2. The building _____ on schedule.

It was three months late.

been prepared are made was opened
must be worn wasn't completed
has hasn't been told were paid
have you been invited was closed

3. These parts _____ in Korea and simply assembled here.

4. We _____ \$1500 in cash to do the job.

been prepared are made was opened
must be worn wasn't completed
has hasn't been told were paid
have you been invited was closed

5. _____ for an interview?

6. The new research centre _____
by the President.

been prepared are made was opened
must be worn wasn't completed
has hasn't been told were paid
have you been invited was closed

7. Goggles and safety shoes _____
in the factory.

8. She _____ yet. She doesn't
know if she has the job or not.

been prepared are made was opened
must be worn wasn't completed
has hasn't been told were paid
have you been invited was closed

9. _____ your car _____ before
going on vacation?

Rewrite the following passage into passive.

1. Someone **broke into** the National Gallery late last night. The thieves **had broken** the alarm system before they climbed through a window. They **stole** some priceless works of arts. They **used** a gateway car to escape. The police **have questioned** some suspects. They **have not caught** the thieves yet.

Someone **broke into** the National Gallery late last night.
The thieves **had broken** the alarm system before they
climbed through a window.

The National Gallery _____ late last night.
The alarm system _____ before the thieves
climbed through a window.

They **stole** some priceless works of arts.

They **used** a gateway car to escape.

Some priceless works of arts _____.

A gateway car _____ to escape.

The police **have questioned** some suspects.
They **have not caught** the thieves yet.

Some suspects _____.
The thieves _____ yet.

2. Yesterday afternoon, a volcanic eruption **destroyed an entire village**. Mount Sirius, which experts thought was dormant, erupted at 3 p.m. Tourists **had seen smoke** rising from the mouth of the volcano two days before.

The police moved the villagers from the area for their own safety. Tons of lava and rocks came out of the volcano and wrecked houses, roads and trees. Although the blast physically injured only a few people, doctors are treating many for shock.

The authorities are keeping the area surrounding Mount Sirius clear in case of further activity.

Yesterday afternoon, a volcanic eruption **destroyed an entire village**. Mount Sirius, which experts thought was dormant, erupted at 3 p.m.

Yesterday afternoon, an entire village _____
by a volcanic eruption, Mount Sirius.

Tourists **had seen smoke** rising from the mouth of the volcano two days before.

Smoke _____ rising from the mouth of the volcano two days before.

The police **moved the villagers** from the area for their own safety. Tons of lava and rocks came out of the volcano and wrecked houses, roads and trees.

The villagers _____ from the area for their own safety. Tons of lava and rocks came out of the volcano and wrecked houses, roads and tree.

Although the blast physically injured only a few people, doctors are treating many for shock.

Although only a few people _____, many _____ for shock.

The authorities are keeping the area surrounding Mount Sirius clear in case of further activity.

The area surrounding Mount Sirius
_____ clear in case of further activity.