

High-Intermediate 2
Unit 7: Grammar
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The Passive Voice

In grammar, active voice and passive voice refer to two different ways of constructing sentences to indicate who is performing the action.

Active Voice:

In the active voice, the subject of the sentence performs the action expressed by the verb.

The structure is: **Subject + Verb + Object.**

Example:

"The chef cooked the meal."

Subject: The chef

Verb: cooked

Object: the meal

Passive Voice:

In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence receives the action expressed by the verb.

The structure is:

Object + Auxiliary Verb (usually 'to be') + Past Participle of the Main Verb + (optional) + by + Agent.

Example:

"The meal was cooked by the chef."

Object: The meal

Auxiliary Verb: was

Past Participle: cooked

Agent (optional): the chef

Key Differences:

Focus:

Active voice focuses on the doer of the action.

Passive voice focuses on the receiver of the action.

Clarity and Directness:

Active voice is generally clearer and more direct.

Passive voice can be useful when the doer is unknown or unimportant.

Examples for Comparison:

Active: "The teacher praised the student."

Passive: "The student was praised by the teacher."

How to Make a Sentence Passive:

1. Omit the subject.
2. Move the object to the empty place of the omitted subject.
3. Use the proper form of the verb “to be” or “to get” according to the new subject and the tense of the sentence.
4. Use the past participle of the main verb in the sentence.
5. **Optional:** Use “by” + the omitted subject

Point:

- The verb “to get” is more informal than “to be”.
- The omitted subject used after “by” is called the “agent” of the sentence.
- Only sentences containing an object can be made passive.

The Proper Forms of the Verbs “to be” and “to get” According to the Tense of the Passive Sentence		
Tense	To Be	To Get
The Present Progressive	am/is/are being	am/is/are getting
The Past Progressive	was/were being	was/were getting
The Simple Present	am/is/are	get/gets
The Simple Past	was/were	got
The Present Perfect	has/have been	has/have gotten
The Past Perfect	had been	had gotten

Examples:

Active Voice			Passive Voice		
The painter	is drawing	a sketch.	A sketch	is being drawn	by the painter.
	was drawing			was being drawn	
	draws			is drawn	
	drew			was drawn	
	has drawn			has been drawn	
	had drawn			had been drawn	
	will draw			will be drawn	
	should draw			should be drawn	
	could have drawn			could have been drawn	

The Causative Structures

In English grammar, causative structures are used to indicate that one person causes another person to do something. These structures can be in either the active or passive voice. Here’s a breakdown of both:

Active Causative Structure:

In the active causative structure, the subject causes someone else to perform an action. The common verbs used in causative structures are "make," "have," and "get."

Examples:

Make: **Subject + Make + Person + Base Verb**

- "She made her brother clean his room."

Have: **Subject + Have + Person + Base Verb**

- "He had the mechanic fix his car."

Get: **Subject + Get + Person + To-Infinitive**

- "They got the waiter to bring the bill."

Passive Causative Structure:

In the passive causative structure, the focus is on the action being done, rather than who is doing it. The structure usually uses the verb "get" or "have" with the past participle of the main verb.

Examples:

Have: **Subject + Have + Object + Past Participle**

- "She had her hair cut."
- "He had the report written."

Get: **Subject + Get + Object + Past Participle**

- "They got their house painted."
- "She got her car repaired."

Make: **Subject + The Auxiliary Verb "To Be" + made + To-Infinitive**

- Jack was made to clean his room.
- The soldiers were made to march every morning.

Comparing Active and Passive Causative:

Active:

- "The manager made the team work late."
- "The teacher had the students write an essay."
- "He got the gardener to trim the hedges."

Passive:

- "The team was made to work late by the manager."
- "The students had their essays written by the teacher."
- "He got the hedges trimmed by the gardener."

Key Points:

In active causative structures, the focus is on who is causing the action.

In passive causative structures, the focus shifts to the action itself or the recipient of the action.

Verbs like "make," "have," and "get" are commonly used in causative constructions as the following table shows:

The Passive Causative Structure	
Active	Passive
have sb do something	have something done
get sb to do something	get something done
make sb do something	be made to do something

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir/high2/>