

Intermediate 1
Unit 5 Grammar
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Active / Passive Voice

In grammar, active voice and passive voice are two ways to construct a sentence, each emphasizing different parts of the action.

Active Voice

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

Structure: Subject + Verb + Object

Example: "The chef cooked the meal."

Here, "the chef" (subject) performs the action of cooking (verb) on "the meal" (object).

Passive Voice

Definition: In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence is acted upon by the verb.

Structure: Object of the Action + Form of "to be" + Past Participle + ("by" + Performer of the Action)

Example: "The meal was cooked by the chef."

Here, "the meal" (object) is acted upon by the chef (performer), with the action being "was cooked."

Comparison

Active Voice: "The teacher explained the lesson."

Passive Voice: "The lesson was explained by the teacher."

Usage

Active Voice: Generally preferred in writing for clarity and directness. It's more engaging and straightforward.

Passive Voice: Used when the action is more important than the performer or when the performer is unknown or irrelevant. It can also be used to create a formal tone.

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 tense of the sentence.
4. Use the past participle of the verb.
- Optional:** 5. Add “by” + the omitted subject (the agent) to the sentence.

omit = delete

Point:

If you want to make a sentence passive, it has to contain an object. In other words, the sentence needs to have a transitive verb, which requires an object.

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

Make the following sentence passive according to the steps mentioned above.

Many People speak English in different countries.

Subject: People

Object: English

Step 1: Delete the subject.

*..... speak English in different countries.

Step 2: Move the object to the empty place of the subject.

***English** speak in different countries.

Step 3: Use the proper form of the verb “to be”.

*English **is** speak in different countries.

Step 4: Use the past participle of the main verb.

English **is** spoken in different countries.

Step 5: Use “by” followed by the omitted subject.

English **is** spoken **by many people** in different countries.

Examples in Different Tenses:

Example 1: The Present Progressive

Active: The workers **are building** a bridge.

Passive: A bridge **is being built** (by the workers).

Passive: A bridge **is getting built** (by the workers).

معلوم: کارگران دارند یک پل می‌سازند.
مجهول: یک پل دارد (توسط کارگران) ساخته می‌شود.

Active: The workers **are building** two bridges.

Passive: Two bridges **are being built** (by the workers).

Passive: Two bridges **are getting built** (by the workers).

معلوم: کارگران دارند دو پل می‌سازند.
مجهول: دو پل دارد (توسط کارگران) ساخته می‌شود.

Example 2: The Past Progressive

Active: The workers **were building** a bridge.

Passive: A bridge **was being built** (by the workers).

Passive: A bridge **was getting built** (by the workers).

معلوم: کارگران داشتند یک پل می‌ساختند.
مجهول: یک پل داشت (توسط کارگران) ساخته می‌شد.

Active: The workers **were building** two bridges.

Passive: Two bridges **were being built** (by the workers).

Passive: Two bridges **were getting built** (by the workers).

معلوم: کارگران داشتند یک پل می‌ساختند.
مجهول: دو پل داشت (توسط کارگران) ساخته می‌شد.

Example 3: The Simple Present

Active: The workers **build** one bridge every six months.

Passive: One bridge **is built** (by the workers) every six months.

Passive: One bridge **gets built** (by the workers) every six months.

معلوم: کارگران هر شش ماه یک پل می‌سازند.
مجهول: یک پل هر شش ماه (توسط کارگران) ساخته می‌شود.

Active: The workers **build** two bridges every year.

Passive: Two bridges **are built** (by the workers) every year.

Passive: Two bridges **get built** (by the workers) every year.

معلوم: کارگران هر سال دو پل می‌سازند.
مجهول: دو پل هر سال (توسط کارگران) ساخته می‌شود.

Example 4: The Simple Past

Active: The workers **built** two bridges last year.

Passive: Two bridges **were built** (by the workers) last year.

معلوم: کارگران پارسال دو پل ساختند.
مجهول: دو پل پارسال (توسط کارگران) ساخته شد.

Passive: Two bridges **got built** (by the workers) last year.

Example 5: The Present Perfect

Active: The workers **have built** a bridge.

Passive: A bridge **has been built** (by the workers).

Passive: A bridge **has gotten built** (by the workers).

معلوم: کارگران یک پل ساخته‌اند.
مجهول: یک پل (توسط کارگران) ساخته شده است.

Example 6: The Past Perfect

Active: The workers **had built** a bridge.

Passive: A bridge **had been built** (by the workers).

Passive: A bridge **had gotten built** (by the workers).

معلوم: کارگران یک پل ساخته بودند.
مجهول: یک پل (توسط کارگران) ساخته شده بود.

Example 7: The Future Simple

Active: The workers **will build** a bridge next year.

Passive: A bridge **will be built** (by the workers) next year.

Passive: A bridge **will get built** (by the workers) next year.

معلوم: کارگران سال آینده یک پل خواهند ساخت.
مجهول: یک پل سال آینده (توسط کارگران) ساخته خواهد شد.

Point:

We can use other modal verbs such as “must”, “can”, “should”, ... in example 7.

Example 8: Can

Active: The workers **can build** a bridge next year.

Passive: A bridge **can be built** (by the workers) next year.

Passive: A bridge **can get built** (by the workers) next year.

معلوم: کارگران می‌توانند سال آینده یک پل بسازند.
مجهول: یک پل می‌تواند سال آینده (توسط کارگران) ساخته شود.

نکته‌ی بسیار مهم:

اگر مترجم هستید دقت کنید که در زبان فارسی روان و سلیس نیاز چندانی به کاربرد ساختار مجهول نیست. چرا که در زبان فارسی به دلیل وجود شناسه در انتهای فعل‌ها به راحتی می‌توان بدون مجهول‌سازی فاعل را از جمله حذف کرد: برای مثال، به جای «یک پل دارد ساخته می‌شود» می‌توانیم بگوییم «دارند یک پل می‌سازند».

More Examples:

Active: She loves him.

Passive: He is loved by her.

Active: The dog bit the mailman.

Passive: The mailman was bitten by the dog.

Active: They are painting the house.

Passive: The house is being painted by them.

Active: The teacher corrected the tests.

Passive: The tests were corrected by the teacher.

Active: He broke the window.

Passive: The window was broken by him.

Active: They will invite us to the party.

Passive: We will be invited by them to the party.

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)