

عنوان المحاضرة: صياغة المبني للمجهول في
اللغة الانكليزية

المادة الدراسية: اللغة الانكليزية

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جامعة الموصل

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القسم: اللغة الفرنسية

Forming the Passive Voice in English

Introduction

The passive voice is an important grammatical structure in English in which the focus is placed on the receiver of an action rather than on the person or thing that performs the action. In an active sentence, the subject normally performs the action, whereas in a passive sentence, the object of the active sentence becomes the grammatical subject. The passive voice is particularly useful when the doer of the action is unknown, unimportant, obvious from the context, or deliberately omitted. It is widely used in academic, scientific, technical, and formal writing because it allows writers to emphasize processes, results, events, or actions rather than the individuals responsible for them. The passive voice can be formed in different tenses by using an appropriate form of the verb be followed by the past participle of the main verb. When necessary, the person or thing performing the action can be introduced with the preposition by. Understanding how the passive voice is

formed and used enables learners to express information more objectively and appropriately in different contexts.

Structure of the Passive Voice

The passive voice is typically formed as follows:

Subject + form of "to be" + past participle + (by + agent)

- The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
 - The verb “to be” is used in the correct tense.
 - The main verb is always in the past participle form.
 - The “agent” (the doer) is introduced with "by" and is often omitted if it is unknown or not important.

Active Voice	Passive Voice
The chef prepares the meal.	The meal is prepared (by the chef).
Scientists discovered the cure.	The cure was discovered (by scientists).
Someone stole my bag.	My bag was stolen.

Examples: Active vs. Passive

Steps to Transform to Passive Voice

1. Identify the object in the active sentence.
2. Move the object to the subject position.
3. Choose the correct tense of “to be.”
4. Use the past participle form of the main verb.
5. Add "by + agent" if necessary.

Passive Voice in Different Tenses

Tense	Active Example	Passive Example
Present Simple	She writes a letter.	A letter is written (by her).
Past Simple	They built the bridge.	The bridge was built (by them).
Present Continuous	He is repairing the car.	The car is being repaired.
Present Perfect	We have finished the project.	The project has been finished.
Future Simple	They will announce the winner.	The winner will be announced.
Modal (can, must)	You can see the mountains.	The mountains can be seen.

When to Use the Passive Voice

- When the doer is unknown:
"The window was broken."
- When the doer is unimportant:
"A new hospital will be built."
- When the focus should be on the action or receiver: "The results were published."

Common Mistakes

- Using the wrong tense of "to be."
- Forgetting to use the past participle form of the main verb.
- Including unnecessary agents.

Practice Exercises

Change the following sentences from active to passive:

1. The students submitted the assignment.
2. Someone is cleaning the classroom.
3. They will announce the results tomorrow.
4. The company has launched a new product.

5. People speak

English worldwide.

Suggested Answers:

1. The assignment was submitted (by the students).
2. The classroom is being cleaned.
3. The results will be announced tomorrow.
4. A new product has been launched (by the company).
5. English is spoken worldwide.

Conclusion

The passive voice is a valuable part of English grammar, providing flexibility in how information is presented. It is essential for academic, scientific, and objective writing.