Passive Voice

Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

Example: My bike was stolen.

In the example above, the focus is on the fact that my bike was stolen. I do not know, however, who did it.

Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than active voice, as the following example shows:

Example: A mistake was made.

In this case, I focus on the fact that a mistake was made, but I do not blame anyone (e.g. You have made a mistake.).

Passive in present tense

When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following:

- the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence
- the finite form of the verb is changed (to be + past participle)
- the subject of the active sentence becomes the object of the passive sentence (or is dropped)

Subject + is + PP

Example: Vera write a letter

A letter is written

Active Voice: "They deliver the packages."

Passive Voice: "The packages are delivered by them."

he passive voice of simple past tense is formed by using the auxiliary verb "was/were" and the past participle of the main verb. The object of the active sentence becomes the

subject of the passive sentence. To form a sentence in passive voice of simple past

tense, we use the following rules:

We convert the object of the Active Voice Sentence into the subject of the Passive

Voice Sentence.

We use the auxiliary verb was/were according to the subject of the Passive Voice

sentence.

Passive in past tense

The passive voice of simple past tense is formed by using the auxiliary verb

"was/were" and the past participle of the main verb. The object of the active

sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. To form a sentence in

passive voice of simple past tense, we use the following rules:

We convert the object of the Active Voice Sentence into the subject of the

Passive .The passive voice of simple past tense is formed by using the auxiliary verb

"was/were" and the past participle of the main verb. The object of the active sentence

becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

Active: I bought two sandwiches

Passive :Sandwiches were bought by me

Passive voice in future

To make a passive voice sentence in Simple Future tense, we write the

auxiliary verb "will" followed by the past participle of the main verb.

The sentence structure is subject + will + be + past participle verb +

[by + agent (optional)].

Auxiliary Verb "will": We use the auxiliary verb "will" to indicate the

future tense.

Active: They will organize a party

Passive: A party will be organized

passive may also with Present Perfect (have or had)

S + has/have +pp + O

O+ has/ have + been +pp

Active :She has published a new paper

Passive :Anew paper has been published

Examples of Passive ••••

Tense		Subject	Verb	Object
Simple Present	Active:	Rita	writes	a letter.
	Passive:	A letter	is written	by Rita.
Simple Past	Active:	Rita	wrote	a letter.
	Passive:	A letter	was written	by Rita.
Present Perfect	Active:	Rita	has written	a letter.
	Passive:	A letter	has been written	by Rita.
Future	Active:	Rita	will write	a letter.
	Passive:	A letter	will be written	by Rita.
	Passive:	A letter	can be written	by Rita.

<u>Terms</u>

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