

THE PASSIVE VERB FORM

ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,
Exercises

LANGUAGE FOCUS

The passive form in English

AIM

To learn and practice the the
passive form in English

LEVEL

Intermediate, Advanced

TIME

60 minutes

INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn the passive form in English

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

WRAP UP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.
Thank them for coming to the lesson.

Active / Passive Verb Forms

Sentences can be active or passive. Therefore, tenses also have "Active Forms" and "Passive Forms". You must learn to recognize the difference to successfully speak English.

ACTIVE FORM

In active sentences, the thing doing the action is the subject of the sentence and the thing receiving the action is the object. Most sentences are active.

[Thing doing action] + [VERB] + [thing receiving action]

EXAMPLES:

The professor teaches the students.

(subject) (active verb) (object)

(doing action) (receiving action)

John washes the dishes.

(subject) (active verb) (object)

(doing action) (receiving action)

PASSIVE FORM

In some sentences, speakers use the passive form. In the passive form, the thing receiving the action is the subject of the sentence and the thing doing the action is optionally included at the end of the sentence. You can use the passive form if you think the thing receiving the action is more important or should be emphasized.

[Thing receiving action] + [BE] + [past participle of verb] + [by] + [thing doing action]

EXAMPLES:

The students are taught by the professor.

(subject) (passive verb)

(receiving action) (doing action)

The dishes are washed by John.

(subject) (passive verb)

(receiving action) (doing action)

EXERCISES

EXERCISE 1.

Fill in the gaps with the correct passive voice of the verb given.

e.g. My car _____ (to borrow) by Jim.

My car was borrowed by Jim.

1. The cake (to eat) _____ by the children.
2. The book (to read) _____ in class.
3. The house (to destroy) _____ by the flames.
4. The children (to watch) _____ by Suzy.
5. The invalid (to cure) _____ by Dr. Hayes.
6. The treasure (to steal) _____ by the pirates.
7. The sailor (to rescue) _____ by a surfer.
8. The park (to close) _____ by the guardian at



- 8 o'clock.
9. An important jewel (to find) _____ on the underground.
10. The door (to shut) _____ by the wind.
11. The ballroom (to clean) _____ every night.
12. The bank (to rob) _____ at noon.
13. She (to frighten) _____ by the snake.
14. The suspect (to interrogate) _____ by the policeman.
15. The tram (to suspend) _____ at night.
16. The ferry (to delay) _____ because of the storm.
17. The sportsman (to hit) _____ on the playing field.
18. The first prize in the lottery (to win) _____ by a child.



19. The film (to shoot) _____ in

England.

20. The tourists (to take) _____ to visit the Tate

Gallery.

EXERCISE 2.

Re-write the following sentences in the correct passive form.

e.g. Mr. White teaches maths.

Maths is taught by Mr. White.

1. His parents took him to the museum.

2. The train station opens at 6 o'clock every morning.

3. The baker makes fabulous chocolate cakes.

4. The guide always gives a map to the tourists.

5. S. King wrote Dolores Clairbone.

6. The police asked each witness what happened.



7. The jury judges suspected criminals.

8. Janet always finds her cat under her bed.

9. Someone told him to go to Nice on holiday.

10. Scientists find cures for diseases.

11. The builders built more than 10,000 houses last year.

12. The tornado destroyed the bridge.

13. They offered a meal to the homeless man.

14. The students sent him a Christmas gift.

15. The postman leaves the mail in the mailbox.

16. Nobody drives on this road because it is dangerous.

EXERCISE 3.

Are the following sentences passive or active?

e.g. The boy dropped the ball. ACTIVE

The sky is covered by clouds. PASSIVE

1. Who was arrested? _____
2. The Smiths are out of the country. _____
3. The train has been delayed. _____
4. The tourists got lost in the park. _____
5. Today, buses are on strike. _____
6. You will burn your hands if you play with fire. _____
7. Will the entire workforce be punished for this? _____
8. I booked a single room for tonight. _____
9. The old paintings will be transported to the museum. _____
10. Yesterday, my English teacher helped me with some exercises. _____
11. The baby-sitter takes care of Tom. _____
12. Tom and Mary are building a new house. _____
13. The luggage was found in the laundry room. _____
14. Letters of protest are being sent to the director. _____
15. The king will be crowned in the cathedral. _____
16. The town centre is hidden by Mount Rainer. _____
17. The baker bakes the bread every morning at 4 o'clock. _____
18. The children covered the cake with cream. _____

PRESENT PASSIVE

The passive verb is used to say what happens to the subject.

EXERCISE 1.

Put the verb into the simple present passive (subject + verb to be + past participle).

e.g. The porter opens the door every day.

The door is opened by the porter every day.

1. The school _____ (open) at 8 o'clock every morning.
2. That old airport _____ (close) on Mondays.
3. My husband is very important. He _____ (invite/always) to congresses.
4. Our receptionist _____ (call/often) by our students.
5. The kitchen _____ (usually/clean) by the chef in the evening.
6. The princess _____ (given) a royal welcome wherever she goes.
7. The bell _____ (ring) by the porter when a person arrives.
8. The exams _____ (prepare) by all the teachers.
9. The sky _____ (cover) by many clouds.

10. Governments _____ (vote) for by the electors.
11. Dinner _____ (serve) at 7.30 p.m..
12. My car _____ (service) by the mechanic who works down the road.
13. Flowers _____ (grow) especially for the Chelsea Flower Show.
14. Budget calculations _____ (make) before the end of April for the new fiscal year.
15. All the men in our office _____ (tell) to wear ties to work. It's obligatory.
16. Many people _____ (say) to believe in the new revolution.
17. Fiona _____ (write) to every day by her boyfriend!
18. Michelle _____ (buy) flowers by a mystery man.

PASSIVE TENSES

EXERCISE 1.

Write sentences using the passive tenses.

e.g. The director solved the problem yesterday.

The problem was solved by the director yesterday.

1. My friend phoned while I was making a cake.

2. My boss gave me a new task.

3. Your parents have already invited their friends.

4. Will the children eat the cake?

5. Shakespeare wrote "The Tempest".

6. My brother had already repaired the car when I arrived.
