

Active and Passive Voice

The passive of an active tense is formed by putting the verb **to be** into the same tense as the active verb and adding the past participle of the active verb. The subject of the active verb becomes the ‘agent’ of the passive verb. The agent is very often not mentioned. When it is mentioned it is preceded by “**by**” and placed at the end of the clause.

Active: My grandfather plants this tree.

Passive: This tree is planted by my grandfather.

Changing Sentences in the Simple Present Tense into Passive

When the active verb is in the **simple present tense**, we make passive verb forms with **is/am/are + past participle form of the verb**. Note that the object of the active verb becomes the subject of the passive verb. The subject of the active verb becomes the object of the passive verb. However, in most cases, the object is not mentioned in the passive voice.

1. She writes a story. (Active) (Subject – she; verb – writes; object – a story)

We have already learned that the object of the active verb becomes the subject of the passive verb. Therefore when we change the above sentence into the passive, ‘a story’ becomes the subject.

A story **is written** by her.

2. She adores kids. (Active) (Subject – she; verb – adores; object – kids)

Kids **are adored** by her. (Passive)

Activity one: Change the following sentences in the active voice into the passive voice.

1. He helps us.
2. Doctors treat patients.
3. Teachers teach students.

4. Parents bring up children.
5. We love our country.
6. Masons build houses.
7. Carpenters make furniture.
8. Mechanics repair cars.

Activity two :

1. Thomas washes the dishes. --> The dishes by Thomas.
2. Frank feeds the dogs. --> The dogs..... by Frank.
3. Maria prepares the food. --> The food..... by Maria.
4. David cleans the kitchen. --> The kitchenby David.
5. My father pays the bills. --> The bills.....by my father.
6. The gardener trims the bushes. --> The bushesby the gardener.
7. Helen sets the table. --> The table.....by Helen.
8. My mother waters the plants. --> The plants by my mother.
9. Arthur does the laundry. --> The laundry by Arthur.

