

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 dishesby Thomas.

2. Frank feeds the dogs. --> The dogsby Frank.

3. Maria prepares the food. --> The foodby Maria.

4. David cleans the kitchen. --> The kitchenby David.

5. My father pays the bills. --> The billsby my father.

6. The gardener trims the bushes. --> The bushesby the gardener.

7. Helen sets the table. --> The tableby Helen.

8. My mother waters the plants. --> The plantsby my mother.

9. Arthur does the laundry. --> The laundryby Arthur.

N.B : This is the first part of the lesson, we will tackled other tenses the following weeks

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Remark :

All the students are obliged to do the activities and send them to my email address.