**THE PASSIVE VOICE**

**ACTIVE:**       My grandfather planted this tree.

**PASSIVE:**     This tree was planted by my grandfather.

**HOW TO CHANGE FROM ACTIVE TO PASSIVE**  To change a sentence from the active voice to the passive voice:  1. The object of the active voice sentence becomes the subject of the passive voice sentence.  2. We change the main verb of the active voice sentence into the passive voice. The tense remains unchanged. The passive verb is formed by putting the verb **TO BE** into the same tense and adding the **PAST PARTICIPLE** of the active verb.

**3.** The subject of the active voice sentence becomes **the agent** of the passive sentence.  The agent is very often not mentioned. If it is mentioned, it is placed after the past participle and it is preceded by the preposition **BY**.

Leslie             took              this photograph      yesterday.                          **SUBJECT      ACTIVE VERB          OBJECT       TIME COMPLEMENT**

  This photograph          was taken                   **by** Leslie    yesterday.          **SUBJEC     PASSIVE VERB              AGENT       TIME COMPLEMENT**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **PASSIVE VERB TENSES** | **ACTIVE VOICE** | **PASSIVE VOICE** |
| **Present Simple** | He delivers the letters. | The letters are delivered. |
| **Past Simple** | He delivered the letters. | The letters were delivered. |
| **Future Simple** | He will deliver the letters. | The letters will be delivered. |
| **Present Continuous** | He is delivering the letters. | The letters are being delivered. |
| **Past Continuous** | He was delivering the letters. | The letters were being delivered. |
| **Going to** | He is going to deliver the letters. | The letters are going to be delivered. |
| **Present Perfect** | He has delivered the letters. | The letters have been delivered |
| **Past Perfect** | He had delivered the letters. | The letters had been delivered. |
| **Future Perfect** | He will have delivered the letters. | The letters will have been delivered. |
| **Modal/ Conditional** | He must deliver the letters.  He would deliver the letters. | The letters must be delivered.  The letters would be delivered. |
| **Modal Perfect** | He must have delivered the letters. | The letters must have been delivered. |
| **Perfect Conditional** | He would have delivered. | The letters would have been delivered. |
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**The USE**

The Passive is used:  **1.** When the agent (the person who does the action) is unknown, unimportant or obvious

From the context, for instance:

Jane was shot.       (We don’t know who shot her.)  This church was built in 1815.     (Unimportant agent)  He has been arrested       . (Obviously by the police)  **2.** When the action is more important than the agent (in instructions, events, headlines,  advertisements), for instance: 30 people were killed in the earthquake.

**Activity:** Rewrite the following changing the active sentences to passive and passive sentences to active.

**1.** The thieves have been arrested by the police.

2. The marvelous performance delivered by the children enthralled us.

**3.** We have shipped your order.

4. The child impresses everyone with his polite manners.

**5.** A girl from Chennai won the first prize.

**6.** They are painting the walls.

**7.** She had accepted their invitation with pleasure.

**8.** You shouldn't talk to your tenants.

**9.** I will deliver my strategies at the meet tonight

**10.** They are coloring the doors.

**11.** You must obey your parents

**12.** My medicine should have been taken

**13.** The present is going to be opened

**14.** She was writing a letter.

**15.** Mourad had offered Mohammed a credit card.