

# PET BUSTER

## The Passive Voice

Училиште: ОУ „Св. Кирил и Методиј“ - Битола  
Предметен наставник: Катерина Петровска  
Наставен предмет: англиски јазик за IX одд.

# The Passive Voice

- We form the passive with the verb **to be** in the appropriate tense and the **past participle** of the main verb.

# The Passive Voice

We use the passive:

- when the person/people doing the action is/are unknown , unimportant or obvious from the context.

*1. The car's window was broken. (We don't know who broke it.)*

*2. The door is being painted. (It's unimportant who is doing it.)*

*3. The burglar has been arrested. (It's obvious that the police arrested him.)*

# The Passive Voice

We use the passive:

- when the action itself is more important than the person/people doing it, as in news headlines, newspaper articles, formal notices, advertisements, instructions, processes, etc.

*Dogs are not allowed in this shop.*

*A plane has crashed in the forest. Not many survivors were found.*

# The Passive Voice

We use the passive:

- when we want to avoid taking responsibility for an action or when we refer to an unpleasant event and we do not want to say who or what is to blame.

*Three houses were destroyed during the bombing.*

# The Passive Voice

Changing from the active to the passive:

- the **object** of an active sentence becomes the **subject** in the passive sentence;
- the active verb remains in the same tense but changes into passive form;
- the **subject** of the active sentence becomes the **agent**, and is either introduced with the preposition **by** or is omitted.

# The Passive Voice

## Present Simple

Active:

Subject

He

Verb

sends

Object

faxes

every day.

Passive:

Subject

Faxes

Verb

**are sent**

every day.

# The Passive Voice

## Present Continuous

Active:

Subject

He

Verb

is sending

Object

a fax

now.

Passive:

Subject

A fax

Verb

**is being sent** now.



# The Passive Voice

## Past Simple

Active:

Subject

Verb

Object

He

sent

two faxes yesterday.

Passive:

Subject

Verb

Two faxes

**were sent**

yesterday.

# The Passive Voice

## Past Continuous

Active:

Subject

Verb

Object

He

was sending

a fax

when I called him.

Passive:

Subject

Verb

A fax

**was being sent**

when I called him.

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# The Passive Voice

## Present Perfect

Active:

Subject

He

Verb

has already sent

Object

the fax.

Passive:

Subject

The fax

Verb

**has** already **been sent**.

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# The Passive Voice

**By + the agent** is used to say who or what carries out an action.

The agent can be omitted when the subject is **they, he, someone/somebody, people, one**, etc.

*Somebody has cleaned the room.*

*The room has been cleaned.*

# The Passive Voice

**The agent** is not omitted when it is a specific or important person, or when it is essential to the meaning of the sentence .

*This novel was written **by** Charles Dickens.*

*Animal Farm was written **by** George Orwell.*

# The Passive Voice

With verbs which can take two objects, such as **bring, tell, send, show, teach, promise, buy, sell, read, offer, give, lend**, etc. we can form two different passive sentences.

*Martin sent an invitation to Joan (active).*

*Joan was sent an invitation. (passive, more usual)*

*An invitation was sent to Joan by Martin. (passive, less usual)*



# The Passive Voice

Are these sentences active or passive? Write A for active and P for passive.

1. They watch TV every evening.
2. Those cars are manufactured in Japan.
3. Simon travels all over the world for his job.
4. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil.
5. Most of the hotels were destroyed by the tsunami.
6. Thomas Edison invented the light bulb.

# The Passive Voice

Are these sentences active or passive? Write A for active and P for passive.

1. They watch TV every evening.
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# The Passive Voice

Transform these sentences into the passive.

1. Italy makes the best shoes in the world.
2. They are washing the car.
3. They sold their house last year.
4. John was painting the ceiling when I arrived.
5. She has mended the curtains.

# The Passive Voice

Check your answers:

1. The best shoes in the world **are made** in Italy.
2. The car **is being washed**.
3. Their house **was sold** last year.
4. The ceiling **was being painted** when I arrived.
5. The curtains **have been mended**.

# The Passive Voice

## Grammar exercises:

- <https://agendaweb.org/verbs/passive-exercises.html>;
- [https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar\\_list/passiv.htm](https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar_list/passiv.htm).