

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
			→
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

## Passive Voice

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

<b>active</b>	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
---------------	----------------	-------------	---------------

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

		→	
	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
	←		
<b>passive</b>	Mice	are eaten	by cats.

See how the **object** of the active verb becomes the **subject** of the passive verb:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
<b>active</b>	Everybody	drinks	<b>water.</b>
<b>passive</b>	<b>Water</b>	is drunk	by everybody.

## Active Voice

Cats eat mice.

The active voice is the "normal" voice of an English sentence. Intransitive verbs (verbs with no direct object) are always in the active voice. Transitive verbs are usually in the active voice:

<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	
Johnny	laughed.	

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
			→
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

Anton	got up	late.
People	drink	water.

In the active voice, the subject is the person or thing responsible for the action of the verb.

All tenses are possible in the active voice, as well as all sentence types, positive, negative or question.

### Use of active

The active voice is the "default" voice in English. All intransitive verbs can only be in the active voice, and all transitive verbs usually are active voice - unless we deliberately make them passive.

In spoken English, we almost always use active voice. It is the natural choice, more precise and generally shorter.

In written English, active voice is usually easier and more interesting for the reader. Passive voice can sound dull and bureaucratic, and is typical of official writing. In the interests of "plain English" that the average person can understand, many governments now encourage civil servants to write in the active voice.

The active voice is:

- direct and specific
- uses fewer words - always a good thing
- dynamic

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

Except on occasions when the passive voice is actually useful, the active voice is the voice of choice.

## Passive Voice

Mice are eaten by cats.

Although the passive voice is less common than the active voice, there are several good reasons to sometimes use the passive. On this page we look at how to construct the passive voice and when and why to use it.

### How do we make the passive?

The basic structure of a **passive** clause is very simple:

subject	+	auxiliary verb <i>be</i>	+	main verb <i>past participle</i>	+	<i>by</i>	+	agent
					optional			

The auxiliary *be* is conjugated in all tenses. The main verb is always the past participle. The agent is the original "doer" of the action.

Look at some examples:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

subject	auxiliary verb <i>be</i>	main verb <i>past participle</i>	by	
I	am	employed	by	Apple.
You	will be	woken		at 6.
It	will have been	finished		by then.
We	have been	notified	by	Head Office.
You	are being	transferred		next week.
They	will be	paid.		

Notice above↑:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

- auxiliary *be* can be conjugated for all persons and tenses
- main verb is invariable: *past participle*
- if there is an agent (*Apple, Head Office*), it is introduced by *by*

## Agentless passive

The subject of an active sentence "does" the action. In a passive sentence, we express the doer (or agent) through a *by* phrase (the long passive) or, very often, we remove it completely (the short passive). In the following example, the agent is "the Allies":

<b>active</b>	The Allies firebombed Dresden.	
<b>passive</b>	<b>long</b>	Dresden was firebombed by the Allies.
	<b>short</b>	Dresden was firebombed.

The short passive is also known as the "agentless passive". Soon you will see how useful it can be.

## Negatives and questions

The table below shows examples of the passive with negative sentences, question sentences and negative-question sentences:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

		subject			auxiliary verb <i>be</i>		main verb <i>past participle</i>	
-		You			are	not	paid	to watch YouTube.
		They	will	never	be		employed	by us.
?	Are	they					cleaned	regularly?
	Has	your wallet			been		stolen?	
-?	Is	he				not	notified	immediately?



Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
			→
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

		subject			auxiliary verb <i>be</i>		main verb <i>past participle</i>	
	Will	they		not	be		dismissed?	
	Haven't	they			been		forgotten?	

Notice above↑:

- position of auxiliary *be* or first auxiliary for questions
- possible positions of *not*, *n't*, *never* to create negation

## Use of the passive

### When and why do we use passive voice?

There are several times when the passive voice is useful, and usually the decision has to do with the "doer" (agent) or the "receiver" of the action. For example, we use the passive when:

1. we want to emphasize the receiver of the action:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>object</b>
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

- *President Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald.*  
cf: *Lee Harvey Oswald killed President Kennedy.*

2. we don't know who did the action (the agent):

- *My wallet has been stolen.*  
cf: *Somebody has stolen my wallet.*

3. we think the agent is not important or interesting:

- *Our house is being painted.*  
cf: *XYZ Company is painting our house.*

4. the agent is obvious:

- *I am paid weekly.*  
cf: *My company pays me weekly.*

5. we are making general statements or announcements:

- *Passengers are reminded to fasten their seatbelts.*  
cf: *The Captain reminds passengers to fasten their seatbelts.*

6. the agent is everyone:

- *The emergency services can be called by dialling 999.*  
cf: *The public can call the emergency services by dialling 999.*

7. we are writing formal or scientific texts:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
			→
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

- *Potassium was added and mixed in. The solution was heated to 80°C and then allowed to cool.*  
cf: *The technician added potassium and mixed it in. The technician heated the solution to 80°C and then allowed it to cool.*

8. we want to avoid responsibility for our own actions (typically found in government reports):

- *Mistakes were made and unfortunately never rectified.*  
cf: *The Prime Minister made mistakes and unfortunately never rectified them.*

Look at this sentence:

- He was killed **with** a gun.

Normally we use **by** to introduce the agent. But the gun is not the original doer of the action. The gun did not kill him. He was killed **by** somebody **with** a gun. In the active voice, it would be: *Somebody killed him with a gun.* Somebody is the agent. The gun is the instrument.

## The get-passive

Although we normally construct the passive with *be + past participle*, it is also possible (in informal language) to use *get + past participle*. So if France beat England at football, we could turn this to passive and say "England were beaten by France" (*be-passive*) or "England got beaten by France" (*get-passive*). And we might also add: "But France will get thrashed by Russia."

For formal English and exams you should use the *be-passive*, but in informal language people sometimes use the *get-passive*.

## Forms of passive

The passive voice is not a tense itself. But for transitive verbs each tense, as well as other verb forms such as infinitives and participles, can be produced in the passive voice. Some of the more complicated tenses (mostly perfect continuous) are rarely used in the passive, but they are possible.

Here are some examples of the passive voice with many of the possible forms using the verb *sing*:

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

<b>infinitive</b>	to be sung		
<b>perfect infinitive</b>	to have been sung		
<b>participle</b>	sung		
<b>perfect participle</b>	having been sung		
<b>gerund</b>	being sung		
	<b>Simple</b>	<b>Continuous</b>	<b>Perfect</b>
<b>Present</b>	am, are, is sung	am, are, is being sung	have, has been sung

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

<b>Past</b>	was, were sung	was, were being sung	had been sung
<b>Future</b>	will be sung	will be being sung	will have been sung

## Active and Passive Examples

The table below shows example sentences in active and passive voice for the basic tenses as well as various other verb forms, including infinitives and participles.

	<b>active</b>	<b>passive</b>
<b>Present Simple</b>	How does one <i>pronounce</i> his name?	How <i>is</i> his name <i>pronounced</i> ?
<b>Present Continuous</b>	Ati's <i>helping</i> Tara.	Tara's <i>being helped</i> by Ati.
<b>Present Perfect</b>	Kid <i>has served</i> dinner.	Dinner <i>has been served</i> .

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
			→
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

<b>Present Perfect Continuous</b>	The police <i>have been watching</i> that house for weeks.	That house <i>has been being watched</i> for weeks.
<b>Past Simple</b>	They <i>didn't fix</i> my phone yesterday.	My phone <i>wasn't fixed</i> yesterday.
<b>Past Continuous</b>	They <i>were interrogating</i> him when I called.	He <i>was being interrogated</i> when I called.
<b>Past Perfect</b>	I wondered why they <i>hadn't invited</i> me.	I wondered why I <i>hadn't been invited</i> .
<b>Past Perfect Continuous</b>	She wasn't sure how long they'd <i>been following</i> her.	She wasn't sure how long she'd <i>been being followed</i> .*
<b>Future Simple</b>	They <i>will hang</i> him at dawn.	He <i>will be hanged</i> at dawn.
<b>Future Continuous</b>	They won't <i>be questioning</i> him when you get there.	He won't <i>be being questioned</i> when you get there.

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
			→
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

<b>Future Perfect</b>	They <i>will have repaired</i> your car by 7pm.	Your car <i>will have been repaired</i> by 7pm.
<b>Future Perfect Continuous</b>	They'll <i>have been treating</i> her for exactly three months tomorrow.	She'll <i>have been being treated</i> for exactly three months tomorrow.*
<b>infinitive</b>	I don't want anyone <i>to disturb</i> me.	I don't want <i>to be disturbed</i> .
<b>perfectinfitive</b>	They seem <i>to have taken</i> it.	It seems <i>to have been taken</i> .
<b>participle</b>	I saw the cat <i>eating</i> it.	I saw it <i>being eaten</i> by the cat.
<b>perfect participle</b>	<i>Having finished</i> my work, I went home.	My work <i>having been finished</i> , I went home.
<b>gerund</b>	I insisted on them <i>paying</i> me.	I insisted on <i>being paid</i> .

## Ваганова Е.Г. Passive Voice HГTY 2017

Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

<b>going to</b>	Is he going <i>to sing</i> Thriller at the party?	Is Thriller going <i>to be sung</i> at the party?
<b>used to</b>	Ram <i>used to take care of</i> everything.	Everything <i>used to be taken care of</i> by Ram.
<b>can</b>	They can <i>question</i> him for six hours.	He can <i>be questioned</i> for six hours.
<b>could</b>	It could <i>have badly hurt</i> you.	You could <i>have been badly hurt</i> .
<b>may</b>	The papers say they may <i>release</i> him.	The papers say he may <i>be released</i> .
<b>might</b>	Somebody might <i>buy</i> it.	It might <i>be bought</i> .
<b>must</b>	Passengers must <i>wear</i> seat belts.	Seat belts must <i>be worn</i> .



Everybody drinks water.  
Water is drunk by everybody.

"Voice" is a grammatical category that applies to verbs. Voice in English expresses the relationship of the subject to the action. Voice has two values:

- **active**: the subject does the action
- **passive**: the subject receives the action

Shakespeare	wrote	Hamlet.			
		Hamlet	was written	by	Shakespeare.

The **active voice** is the "normal" voice - the one that we use most of the time. In the active voice, the **object** receives the action of the verb:

	subject	verb	object
		→	
<b>active</b>	Cats	eat	mice.

The **passive voice** is less common. In the passive voice, the **subject** receives the action of the verb:

<b>should</b>	You should <i>have told</i> me.	I should <i>have been told</i> .
<b>ought to</b>	They ought <i>to forgive</i> him.	He ought <i>to be forgiven</i> .

Интернет-источники:

<https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/passive-voice.htm>