**Passive Voice**

Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known; however, who or what is performing the action.

Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than active voice, as the following example shows:

Example: A mistake was made.

In this case, I focus on the fact that a mistake was made, but I do not blame anyone (e.g. you have made a mistake.).

When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following:

* the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence
* the finite form of the verb is changed (*to be* + past participle)
* the subject of the active sentence becomes the object of the passive sentence (or is dropped)

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| Tense | | Subject | Verb | Object |
| **Simple Present** | *Active:* | Rita | writes | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | is written | by Rita. |
| **Simple Past** | *Active:* | Rita | wrote | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | was written | by Rita. |
| **Present Perfect** | *Active:* | Rita | has written | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | has been written | by Rita. |
| **Future I** | *Active:* | Rita | will write | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | will be written | by Rita. |
| **Modals (should-must- could etc-….)** | *Active:* | Rita | can write | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | can be written | by Rita |
| **Tense** | | Subject | Verb | Object |
| **Present Progressive** | *Active:* | Rita | is writing | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | is being written | by Rita. |
| **Past Progressive** | *Active:* | Rita | was writing | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | was being written | by Rita. |
| **Past Perfect** | *Active:* | Rita | had written | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | had been written | by Rita. |
| **Conditional I** | *Active:* | Rita | would write | a letter. |
| *Passive:* | A letter | would be written | by Rita. |

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| 1) Mr Jones watches the film. . |
| 2) The people speak English. . |
| 3) He reads comics. . |
| 4) We play volleyball. . |
| 5) They sing the song. . |
| 6) I take photos. . |
| 7) She does the housework. . |
| 8) The policemen help the children. . |
| 9) He writes text messages. . |
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| |  | | --- | | 1) She bought four apples. . | | 2) We won the match. . | | 3) The man stole the blue car. . | | 4) The police arrested the thieves. . | | 5) Jack swam the 200 metres. . | | 6) The dog bit the old lady. . | | 7) Tom and Max ate five hamburgers. . | | 8) Oliver taught the children. . | | 9) Victoria rode the brown horse. . | | 10) Grandmother told good stories. . |   Simple past tense . |

Decide whether the sentences are written in Active or Passive. Match all the items on the right with the items on the left, then press "CHECK".

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| They **listen** to music. |
| She **is reading** an e-mail. |
| These cars **are produced** in Japan. |
| Alan **teaches** Geography. |
| German **is spoken** in Austria. |
| Lots of houses **were destroyed** by the earthquake. |
| Henry Ford **invented** the assembly line. |
| The bus driver **was hurt**. |