

Active And Passive Verb Forms

Read the following sentences:

He **is writing** a letter. (Active)

A letter **is being written** by him. (Passive)

You will have noticed that the verb changes its form when the sentence is changed from the active voice to the passive voice. The passive form of the verb is constructed by putting appropriate auxiliary verbs before the **past participle form of the active verb**.

The active and passive forms of the verb **write** are given below:

When the active verb is in the simple present tense

Active verb: **write/writes**

Passive verb: **is/am/are written**

- He **writes** a letter.
- A letter **is written** by him.

When the active verb is in the present continuous tense

Active verb: **is/am/are writing**

Passive verb: **is/am/are being written**

- He **is writing** a letter. (Active)
- A letter **is being written** by him. (Passive)

When the active verb is in the present perfect tense

Active verb: **has/have written**

Passive verb: **has/have been written**

- He **has written** a letter. (Active)
- A letter **has been written** by him. (Passive)

When the active verb is in the simple past tense

Active verb: **wrote**

Passive verb: **was/were written**

- He **wrote** a letter. (Active)
- A letter **was written** by him. (Passive)

When the active verb is in the past continuous tense

Active: **was/were writing**

Passive: **was/were being written**

- He **was writing** a letter. (Active)
- A letter **was being written** by him. (Passive)

When the active verb is in the past perfect tense

Active verb: **had written**

Passive verb: **had been written**

- He **had written** a letter.
- A letter **had been written** by him.

When the active verb is in the simple future tense

Active verb: **will/shall write**

Passive verb: **will/shall be written**

- He **will write** a letter. (Active)
- A letter **will be written** by him. (Passive)

When the active verb is in the future perfect tense

Active verb: **will/shall have written**

Passive verb: **will/shall have been written**

- He **will have written** a letter.
- A letter **will have been written** by him

Exercise 1:

We use active voice when the subject performs the action. We use the passive voice when we don't want to say who performs the action.

Test your understanding of active and passive verb forms with this interactive grammar exercise.

1. His command

promptly obeyed /was promptly obeyed /has promptly obeyed

2. That portrait by my grandmother.

Painted /has painted /was painted

3. They to the party.

have invited /have been invited /have been inviting

4. You when the time comes.

will be told /told /will told

5. Everybody with me.

Agrees /is agrees /is agreed

6. I was very in the lesson.

Interest /interesting /interested

7. The dog the man.

Bit /was bit /was bitten

8. He a very remarkable discovery.

is made /made /was made

9. The accused to a tree.

Bind /bound /was bound

10. She the first prize in the competition.

(select 2 correct answers)

Won /has won /was won

11. The ocean dry.

cannot pump /cannot be pumped /cannot have pumped

12. I to leave the room.

Told /have told /was told

Exo 2

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. He has been invited to their party.

4. We have shipped your order.
5. The girl recited the poem beautifully.
6. The guests enjoyed the party.
7. The child impressed everyone with his polite manners.
8. A girl from Chennai won the first prize.
9. The readers like the latest book of the writer.
10. They are painting the walls.
11. The car has been fixed by the mechanic.
12. She accepted their invitation with pleasure.