

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

Active voice describes a sentence where the subject performs the action stated by the verb. In Passive voice, the subject is acted upon by the verb.

For example:

Tim painted the entire hall. (Active)

The entire hall was painted by Tim. (Passive)

- **Structure- Active voice sentences**

Subject + Verb + Object (S + V + O)

- **Structure- Passive voice sentences**

Object + Verb + Subject (O + V + S)

Change of Tenses (Active to Passive)

TENSES		ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRESENT	SIMPLE/INDEFINITE	V1/V5	IS/AM/ARE + V3
	CONTINUOUS	IS/AM/ARE + V4	IS/AM/ARE + BEING + V3
	PERFECT	HAS/HAVE + V3	HAS/HAVE + BEEN + V3
	PERFECT CONTINUOUS	HAS/HAVE + BEEN + V4	NO PASSIVE

PAST	SIMPLE/INDEFINITE	V2	WAS/WERE + V3
	CONTINUOUS	WAS/WERE + V4	WAS/WERE + BEING + V3
	PERFECT	HAD + V3	HAD + BEEN +V3
	PERFECT CONTINUOUS	HAD + BEEN + V4	NO PASSIVE
FUTURE	SIMPLE/INDEFINITE	WILL/SHALL + V1	WILL/SHALL + BE +V3
	CONTINUOUS	WILL/SHALL + BE + V4	NO PASSIVE
	PERFECT	WILL/SHALL + HAVE + V3	WILL/SHALL + HAVE + BEEN + V3
	PERFECT CONTINUOUS	WILL/SHALL + HAVE + BEEN+ V4	NO PASSIVE

Passives not possible for the following:

1. No object

For example: He sings.

2. 'To be' verbs (is/am/are/was/were etc.) without main verbs.

For example: I am a doctor.

3. Future continuous tense

For example: She will be baking cookies at this time tomorrow.

4. Perfect continuous tense

For example: They have been trying to get over this for 2 weeks.

Questions to practice:

1. The rebels attacked the workers in retaliation.
2. I will write an essay.
3. He had completed the work.
4. A great movie had been screened for all of us.
5. The boys laughed at the old man.

ANSWERS:

1. The workers were attacked by the rebels in retaliation.
2. An essay will be written by me.
3. The work had been completed by him.
4. They had screened a great movie for all of us.
5. The old man was laughed at by the boys.