

### Warm-up (activity)

## THE PASIVE VOICE

Generally, in our day-to-day language we use the active voice a lot, in which the subject is the one who performs the action. However, very often we also use the passive voice without realizing it, when the subject becomes passive and the emphasis is on the person or object that experiences or receives the action.

In English, the passive voice is made up of two elements:

The corresponding form of the verb 'to be'

followed by the past participle.

Switching to passive voice in English will make your texts more formal.

On the other hand, if you use the active voice, your writings or speeches will be easier to understand.

Type of sentence / Subject / Verb / Object

ACTIVE VOICE: The tourists / Took / pictures

PASIVE VOICE: Pictures / were taken / by  
tourists

### Presentation (activity)

How can you convert a sentence from active voice  
to passive voice in English?

What you have to do is:

To use the appropriate form of the verb to be +  
the past participle of the verb you have in the  
sentence in the active voice.

Let's look at an example:

Active voice:

William Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet.

Passive voice:

Romeo and Juliet was written by William  
Shakespeare.

### Practice (activity)

Now we are going to practice what we learnt. Please read carefully every sentence and transform the verb given to complete the following sentences:

- The wheel (to invent) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ thousands of years ago.
- English (to speak) \_\_\_\_\_ in many  
countries all over the world.
- América (to discover) \_\_\_\_\_ by  
Christopher Columbus in 1492.

### Evaluation (activity)

Convert the following active sentences to their passive form:

A gardener is watering the flowers.	
We are going to announce the results on Monday.	
The students are making arrangements for the party	
The girls are taking sing lessons	
The designers made some beautiful dresses	
The son gave a birthday gift to his mom	
A woman wrote the most popular song of the year	

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