

Passive Voice

Functions of the passive voice.

The passive voice is used to show interest in the person or object that experiences the action rather than the person that performs the action. In other words, the most important thing or person becomes the subject of the sentence. The passive voice is formed by two elements- the appropriate form of the verb “to be” + past participle.

Example: The block was built in 1990. Here we are interested in the block not the one who built it.

Other times we use the passive voice if we do not know who has done the action or we do not want to express it.

Example: I saw that the window has been left open. Here it is not mentioned who left the window open.

This is different from the active voice because when we are using the active voice we are focusing on the person who is doing the action.

Example: Victor **built** the house. (Active voice) – The house **was built** by Victor. (Passive voice)

Exercises:

Exercise 1 Are the sentences Active or Passive?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Lily likes to play football. | 2) The bikes were made in Germany. |
| a) Active | a) Active |
| b) Passive | b) Passive |
| 3) Michael shaved his beard. | 4) The hallway has been cleaned. |
| a) Active | a) Active |
| b) Passive | b) Passive |

5) The letter is received by him.

a) Active

b) Passive

7) The teacher read the book.

a) Active

b) Passive

6) Melanie was robbed.

a) Active

b) Passive

8) Lana was baking a cake.

a) Active

b) Passive

Exercise 2 Fill the blanks with the correct Passive form.

1) He likes.....

a) being looking at

b) being looked at

2) The table.....up for firewood.

a) was breaking

b) was broken

3) The roofby Kevin.

a) is being repaired

b) is repairing

4) This bag.....of leather.

a) made

b) is made

5) This house.....

a) has sold

b) is being sold

6) The purse.....by Jamie.

a) stole

b) was stolen

7) The computer..... by July.

a) was broken

b) is been broken

8) Monica.....last week.

a) should have been done

b) should be done