

Passive sentences

The normal order of sentences in English is (the ACTIVE order):

subject (=agent) + verb + object + ...

To change active sentences into the passive:

1. Place the active object as subject in your passive sentence.
2. Use the verb 'be' in the same tense as the active verb (and agreeing with the new subject!!).
3. Add the Past Participle form of the active verb.
4. If the active subject (agent) was important, add it with BY.

Example:

They presented the project yesterday.

The project was presented yesterday.

	Simple	Continuous	Perfect
Present	am is are	am being is being are being	have been has been
Past	was were	was being were being	had been
Future	will be	will be being	will have been

Are these sentences active or passive?

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|--|--------|---------|
| 1. Nadia Comaneci won several Olympic medals. | Active | Passive |
| 2. The plane crashed over the Himalayas. | Active | Passive |
| 3. The opera <i>La Traviatta</i> was written by Verdi. | Active | Passive |
| 4. Coffee is grown in South America. | Active | Passive |
| 5. The town was destroyed by the flood. | Active | Passive |
| 6. An earthquake shook Mexico City. | Active | Passive |
| 7. They finished painting the building last month. | Active | Passive |
| 8. She knitted herself a long red scarf. | Active | Passive |
| 9. Dynamite was invented by Alfred Nobel. | Active | Passive |
| 10. We brought some pizzas for the party. | Active | Passive |

Rewrite the following sentences:

1. People are sending blankets to the flood victims.
The flood victims _____
2. IBM will offer her a job.
She _____
3. The cashier gave me a discount for my purchase.
I _____
4. A tour guide will show us around the city.
We _____

Write the following sentences in the passive:

1. They developed the vaccine in the 1950s. _____
2. They make shoes in Alicante. _____
3. They are sending the parcel by sea. _____
4. The staff have treated him very well. _____
5. The justice will punish them for what they did. _____