Passive voice

USES

When Do We Use the Passive Voice?

- When the doer is unknown or unimportant

Sometimes, we don't know or don't care who performed the action.

"The cake was eaten."

(We don't know or need to know who ate the cake.)

- When we want to emphasize the action or the object

In scientific, formal, or technical writing, the focus is often on the action rather than the person doing it.

"The report was submitted yesterday."

(Here, the focus is on the action of submission, not the person who submitted it.)

- When the doer is obvious or general

Sometimes the doer is obvious from the context, and we don't need to mention it.

"The documents were delivered."

(It's obvious that someone, such as a delivery person, did it.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Notes

- By + Doer

If you want to mention who performed the action, you can add "by" + the doer at the end of the sentence.

Example:

"The book was written by J.K. Rowling."

(Here, "by J.K. Rowling" tells us who wrote the book.)

- Omitting the doer: Often, in the passive voice, the doer is not mentioned because it's either unknown or irrelevant.

Example:

"The report was finished."

(We don't mention who finished it because it's not important.)

Passive vs. Active Sentences

Active Voice:

"The teacher explains the lesson."

(Focus is on the teacher performing the action.)

Passive Voice:

"The lesson is explained by the teacher."

(Focus is on the lesson being explained.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Structure

[Subject] + [form of "to be"] + [past participle of the main verb]

- Present Simple Passive

Structure: Subject + am/is/are + past participle

"The house is cleaned every day."

(The house is the subject, "is" is the correct form of "to be", and "cleaned" is the past participle of "clean".)

- Past Simple Passive

Structure: Subject + was/were + past participle

"The letter was sent last week."

("The letter" is the subject, "was" is the correct form of "to be", and "sent" is the past participle of "send".)

- Present Continuous Passive

Structure: Subject + am/is/are + being + past participle

"The car is being repaired."

("The car" is the subject, "is" is the correct form of "to be", "being" is used to indicate the continuous action, and "repaired" is the past participle of "repair".)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- Past Continuous Passive

Structure: Subject + was/were + being + past participle

"The cake was being decorated when I arrived."

("The cake" is the subject, "was" is the correct form of "to be", "being" indicates the continuous action, and "decorated" is the past participle of "decorate".)

- Present Perfect Passive

Structure: Subject + has/have + been + past participle

"The project has been completed."

("The project" is the subject, "has" is the correct form of "to be", "been" indicates the perfect aspect, and "completed" is the past participle of "complete".)

- Future Simple Passive

Structure: Subject + will be + past participle

"The documents will be signed tomorrow."

("The documents" is the subject, "will" is the future form of "to be", and "signed" is the past participle of "sign".)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Activities

Exercise 1: Change Active Sentences into Passive

Rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice.

- They build houses here.
- She has prepared the meal.
- People speak English all over the world.
- He was painting the fence.
- Scientists will discover new planets soon.

Exercise 2: Identify Active or Passive

Decide whether each sentence is in the active (A) or passive voice (P).

1. The book is read by many students.
2. Many students read the book.
3. A new policy was introduced last year.
4. They have completed the project.
5. The museum is visited by thousands of tourists.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- **Read and highlight the passive voice, then answer the questions.**

The Importance of Conservation Efforts

Over the past few decades, the importance of environmental conservation has become increasingly clear. Numerous species have been protected, ecosystems have been restored, and significant efforts have been made to raise awareness about the urgent need for sustainable practices. Yet, despite these efforts, many challenges remain. In this context, it is essential to examine how conservation initiatives are being implemented and the impact they have had on both local communities and the planet.

One of the most significant strides in conservation has been the creation of protected areas. National parks, nature reserves, and wildlife sanctuaries have been established all over the world to protect endangered species. In fact, hundreds of animal and plant species have been saved from the brink of extinction due to these measures. For instance, the population of the Siberian tiger has been significantly increased, as a result of stringent anti-poaching laws and habitat protection. The success of these programs demonstrates the effectiveness of conservation efforts when they are well-planned and well-supported by governments and organizations alike.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Moreover, considerable progress has been made in raising awareness about environmental issues. Environmental campaigns have been launched globally, and these campaigns have been widely supported by both the public and private sectors. Countless documentaries, articles, and social media initiatives have been created to inform people about the importance of biodiversity and the dangers of climate change. As a result, sustainable practices, such as recycling, energy conservation, and the reduction of plastic waste, have been increasingly adopted by individuals and businesses. For example, plastic bags are now banned in many countries, and alternatives such as reusable shopping bags are being used more frequently.

In addition, conservation programs have not only been focused on protecting nature but also on restoring ecosystems that have been damaged. Over the years, many forests and wetlands have been rehabilitated through reforestation projects and wetland restoration initiatives. While progress has been made, these efforts have often been slow, and some areas have not been fully restored. However, since these initiatives began, significant positive changes have been observed, and further restoration work is currently underway. The impact of these efforts has been noticeable, as biodiversity has gradually been re-established in many areas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Despite these achievements, challenges remain. It is clear that much more needs to be done to address the pressing environmental issues that continue to threaten our planet. Although many governments have implemented policies to combat deforestation and pollution, it is evident that these measures must be strengthened. For instance, global emissions have been reduced, but they are still far above safe levels. Consequently, global cooperation is crucial, as only by working together can effective solutions be found.

In conclusion, while notable progress has been made in the field of environmental conservation, it is evident that further efforts are required to ensure a sustainable future for all. The role of individuals, governments, and organizations has been critical in driving these changes, and the momentum for change must continue. With ongoing awareness campaigns, policy changes, and restoration efforts, it is hoped that future generations will inherit a healthier and more balanced planet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

KEYS

Passive voice tenses from the text:

- Present Perfect Passive:

has been protected, have been restored, has been made, have been launched, has been created, have been increasingly adopted, has been rehabilitated, have been observed, has been noticeable, has gradually been re-established, has been critical, has been saved, has been significantly increased

- Present Continuous Passive:

are being implemented, are being used, is currently underway

- Past Simple Passive:

was banned, was introduced (not included but can be added)

- Modals in Passive:

must be strengthened, can be found, is hoped, are required

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- **Multiple Choice Exercise: Passive Voice in Context**

Which sentence from the text uses the passive voice in the present perfect tense?

a) "The importance of environmental conservation has become increasingly clear."

b) "Numerous species have been protected, ecosystems have been restored, and significant efforts have been made."

c) "The population of the Siberian tiger has been significantly increased."

d) "Environmental campaigns have been launched globally."

e) "Plastic bags are now banned in many countries."

Which of the following sentences uses the passive voice to emphasize the action rather than the doer?

a) "The lesson has been explained by the teacher."

b) "Protected areas have been established all over the world."

c) "The team will finish the report tomorrow."

d) "Many people were informed about the issue."

e) "The scientists have researched the problem."

In which sentence is the past perfect passive used?

a) "The population of the Siberian tiger has been significantly increased."

b) "The report has been completed."

c) "Many forests and wetlands have been rehabilitated."

d) "The road had been repaired before we arrived."

e) "Significant progress has been made in raising awareness."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which of the following is in the present continuous passive voice?

a) "The project has been completed."

b) "The forests are being rehabilitated."

c) "The report was being written last night."

d) "The building was being cleaned when I arrived."

e) "The message will be delivered soon."

What is the correct passive form of this sentence from the text: "They have been increasingly adopting sustainable practices"?

a) Sustainable practices have been increasingly adopted.

b) Sustainable practices were increasingly adopted.

c) Sustainable practices are increasingly adopted.

d) Sustainable practices have been adopted increasingly.

e) Sustainable practices are being increasingly adopted.

Which sentence emphasizes the result of the action rather than the doer?

a) "Many documentaries, articles, and social media initiatives have been created to inform people."

b) "The scientists have studied the effects of climate change."

c) "The trees have been planted by volunteers."

d) "Many areas were restored by environmentalists."

e) "They introduced a new method for reforestation."

Which of these sentences is in the past continuous passive voice?

a) "The campaign was being launched when I joined."

b) "The road is being repaired at the moment."

c) "The roads had been repaired by the workers."

d) "The forest was being destroyed rapidly."

e) "The project is being completed now."

In the context of the text, which sentence uses the passive voice in the future tense?

a) "A new report will be published soon."

b) "Many reports were written last year."

c) "The decision will be made in the next meeting."

d) "The issue is being discussed today."

e) "The results will be analyzed later."

Which sentence from the text is an example of the present perfect continuous passive?

a) "The building has been being repaired for months."

b) "The tree has been planted."

c) "Environmental campaigns have been launched."

d) "Sustainable practices have been adopted over the years."

e) "The forest was being cleared for agriculture."

Which sentence in the text is an example of a passive construction with "by" to mention the doer?

a) "The report was written last week."

b) "The results will be published by the researchers."

c) "The roads were repaired last year."

d) "The campaign is being launched by the government."

e) "The workers completed the restoration."

LIVEWORKSHEETS