

---

# THE PASSIVE VOICE

---

# FORM

## ◆ Step 1

The **object** (DO or IO) of an active sentence becomes the '**subject**' of the passive one

## ◆ Step 2

The **predicate** of the active sentence is transformed into the passive voice

## ◆ (Step 3 )

The **subject** of an active verb may become the '**agent**' of the passive verb (often not mentioned); when mentioned, the 'agent' is preceded by **BY** and placed at the end of the clause

S DO

Active: Students read books.

S

Passive: Books are read (by students).



S IO

Active: Tom sends her e-mails every morning.

S

Passive: She is sent e-mails every morning (by Tom).



- ◆ The passive voice of an active sentence is formed by

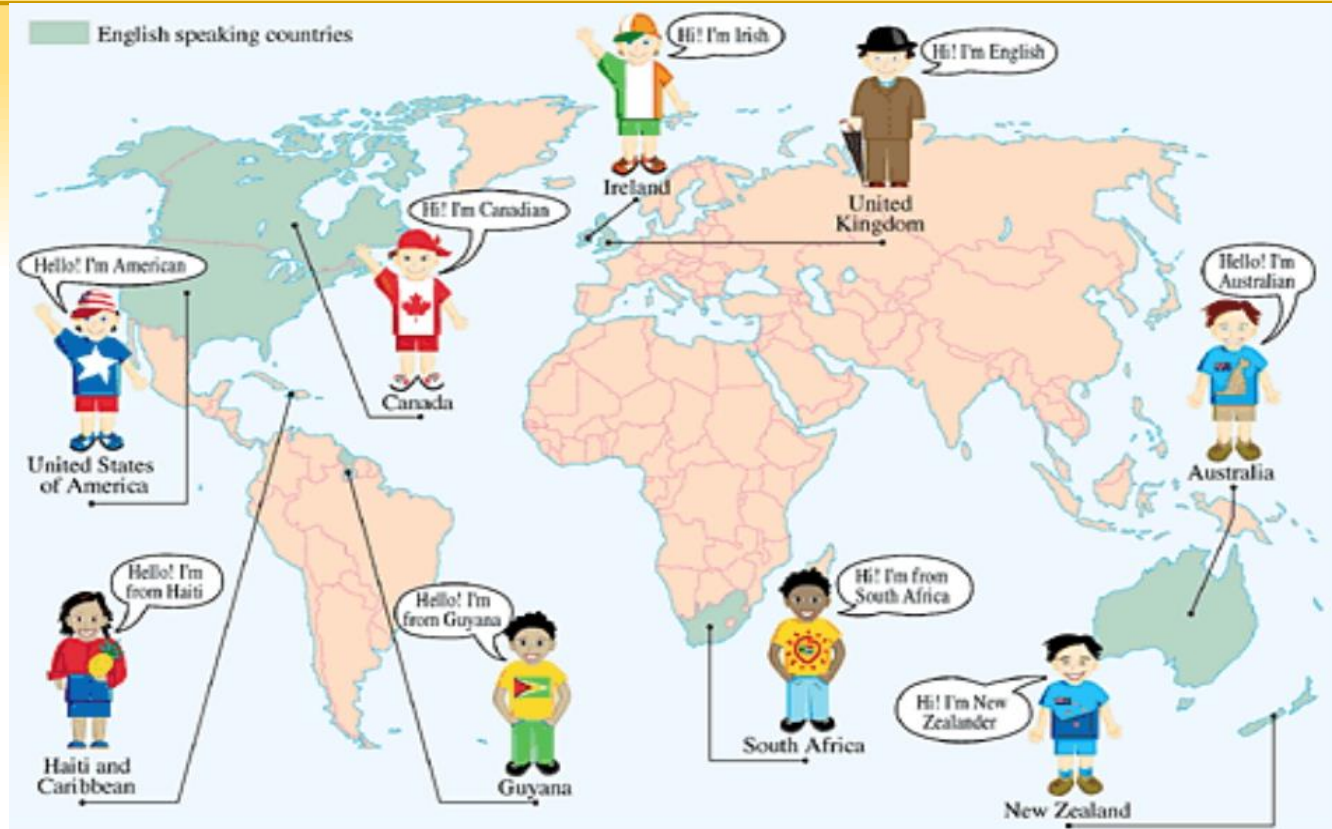
putting the verb <u>to be</u> into the same tense as the active verb	+	<u>the past participle</u> (3. column/ -ed) of the active verb
---	---	--

Cell phones ARE used often nowadays.

Another lecture WILL BE delivered next Friday.

That letter WAS sent last week.

Nothing HAS BEEN done for years.



A People speak English all over the world.  
P English IS spoken all over the world.



- A Anne and her mum are making a cake.
- P A cake **IS BEING made** by Anne and her mum.
- A Anne and her mum have already made a cake.
- P A cake **HAS** already **BEEN made** (by Anne and her mum).

# The Present Simple Tense - DO

I <u>am</u> invited. You <u>are</u> invited. He/she/it <u>is</u> invited.	We <u>are</u> invited. You <u>are</u> invited. They <u>are</u> invited.
I <u>am not</u> (I'm not) invited. You <u>are not</u> (aren't) invited. He/she/it <u>is not</u> (isn't) invited.	We <u>are not</u> invited. You <u>are not</u> invited. They <u>are not</u> invited.
<u>Am</u> I <u>invited</u> ? <u>Are</u> you <u>invited</u> ? <u>Is</u> he/she/it <u>invited</u> ?	<u>Are</u> we <u>invited</u> ? <u>Are</u> you <u>invited</u> ? <u>Are</u> they <u>invited</u> ?

## The Present Simple Tense - IO

I am given a book.

You are given a book.

He/she/it is given a book.

We are given a book.

You are given a book.

They are given a book.

I am not given a book.

You are not given a book.

He/she/it is not given a book.

We are not given a book.

You are not given a book.

They are not given a book.

Am I given a book?

Are you given a book?

Is he/she/it given a book?

Are we given a book?

Are you given a book?

Are they given a book?



## The Present Continuous Tense - DO

I <u>am being invited</u> . You <u>are being invited</u> . He/she/it <u>is being invited</u> .	We <u>are being invited</u> . You <u>are being invited</u> . They <u>are being invited</u> .
I <u>am not being invited</u> . You <u>are not being invited</u> . He/she/it <u>is not being invited</u> .	We <u>are not being invited</u> . You <u>are not being invited</u> . They <u>are not being invited</u> .
<u>Am I being invited?</u> <u>Are you being invited?</u> <u>Is he/she/it being invited?</u>	<u>Are we being invited?</u> <u>Are you being invited?</u> <u>Are they being invited?</u>

## The Present Continuous Tense - IO

<p>I <u>am being given</u> a book. You <u>are being given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>is being given</u> a book.</p>	<p>We <u>are being given</u> a book. You <u>are being given</u> a book They <u>are being given</u> a book.</p>
<p>I <u>am not being given</u> a book. You <u>are not being given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>is not being given</u> a book.</p>	<p>We <u>are not being given</u> a book. You <u>are not being given</u> a book. They <u>are not being given</u> a book.</p>
<p><u>Am</u> I <u>being given</u> a book? <u>Are</u> you <u>being given</u> a book? <u>Is</u> he/she/it <u>being given</u> a book?</p>	<p><u>Are</u> we <u>being given</u> a book? <u>Are</u> you <u>being given</u> a book? <u>Are</u> they <u>being given</u> a book?</p>

## The Past Simple Tense - DO

I <u>was</u> invited. You <u>were</u> invited. He/she/it <u>was</u> invited.	We <u>were</u> invited. You <u>were</u> invited. They <u>were</u> invited.
I <u>was not</u> (wasn't) invited. You <u>were not</u> (weren't) invited. He/she/it <u>was not</u> invited.	We <u>were not</u> invited. You <u>were not</u> invited. They <u>were not</u> invited.
<u>Was</u> I <u>invited</u> ? <u>Were</u> you <u>invited</u> ? <u>Was</u> he/she/it <u>invited</u> ?	<u>Were</u> we <u>invited</u> ? <u>Were</u> you <u>invited</u> ? <u>Were</u> they <u>invited</u> ?

## The Past Simple Tense - IO

I was given a book.  
You were given a book.  
He/she/it was given a book.

We were given a book.  
You were given a book.  
They were given a book.

I was not given a book.  
You were not given a book.  
He/she/it was not given a book.

We were not given a book.  
You were not given a book.  
They were not given a book.

Was I given a book?  
Were you given a book?  
Was he/she/it given a book?

Were we given a book?  
Were you given a book?  
Were they given a book?

## The Past Continuous Tense - DO

I was being invited.  
You were being invited.  
He/she/it was being invited.

We were being invited.  
You were being invited.  
They were being invited.

I was not being invited.  
You were not being invited.  
He/she/it was not being invited.

We were not being invited.  
You were not being invited.  
They were not being invited.

Was I being invited?  
Were you being invited?  
Was he/she/it being invited?

Were we being invited?  
Were you being invited?  
Were they being invited?

## The Past Continuous Tense - IO

<p>I <u>was being given</u> a book. You <u>were being given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>was being given</u> a book.</p>	<p>We <u>were being given</u> a book. You <u>were being given</u> a book. They <u>were being given</u> a book.</p>
<p>I <u>was not being given</u> a book. You <u>were not being given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>was not being given</u> a book.</p>	<p>We <u>were not being given</u> a book. You <u>were not being given</u> a book. They <u>were not being given</u> a book.</p>
<p><u>Was I being invited?</u> <u>Were you being invited?</u> <u>Was he/she/it being invited?</u></p>	<p><u>Were we being given</u> a book? <u>Were you being given</u> a book? <u>Were they being given</u> a book?</p>

## The Future Simple Tense - DO

<p>I <u>shall be invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>will be invited</u>.</p> <p>He/she/it <u>will be invited</u>.</p>	<p>We <u>shall be invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>will be invited</u>.</p> <p>They <u>will be invited</u>.</p>
<p>I <u>shall not (shan't) be invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>will not (won't) be invited</u>.</p> <p>He/she/it <u>will not be invited</u>.</p>	<p>We <u>shall not be invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>will not be invited</u>.</p> <p>They <u>will not be invited</u>.</p>
<p><u>Will I be invited?</u></p> <p><u>Will you be invited?</u></p> <p><u>Will he/she/it be invited?</u></p>	<p><u>Will we be invited?</u></p> <p><u>Will you be invited?</u></p> <p><u>Will they be invited?</u></p>

## The Future Simple Tense - IO

I <u>shall be given</u> a book. You <u>will be given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>will be given</u> a book.	We <u>shall be given</u> a book. You <u>will be given</u> a book. They <u>will be given</u> a book.
I <u>shall not be given</u> a book. You <u>will not be given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>will not be given</u> a book.	We <u>shall not be given</u> a book. You <u>will not be given</u> a book. They <u>will not be given</u> a book.
<u>Will</u> I <u>be given</u> a book? <u>Will</u> you <u>be given</u> a book? <u>Will</u> he/she/it <u>be given</u> a book?	<u>Will</u> we <u>be given</u> a book? <u>Will</u> you <u>be given</u> a book? <u>Will</u> they <u>be given</u> a book?



## Modals

Active	<p><i>We <u>must</u> <u>reward</u> diligent students.</i> <i>They <u>can</u> <u>ask</u> various questions.</i></p> <p><b>S + modal + bare infinitive</b></p>
Passive	<p><i>Diligent students <u>must</u> <u>be rewarded</u>.</i> <i>Various questions <u>can</u> <u>be asked</u>.</i></p> <p><b>S + modal + passive infinitive (<i>be</i> + past participle)</b></p>

## EXAMPLES

### ◆ The Present Simple Tense

A        *We write essays every week.*

P        *Essays are written every week.*

### ◆ The Present Continuous Tense

A        *They are repairing the bridge.*

P        *The bridge is being repaired.*

### ◆ The Past Simple Tense

A        *They broke the window yesterday.*

P        *The window was broken yesterday.*

### ◆ The Past Continuous Tense

A        *They were carrying the injured player off the field.*

P        *The injured player was being carried off the field.*

### ◆ The Future Tense

A        *They will sell the house next year.*

B        *The house will be sold next year.*

- ◆ Examples of the passive of auxiliary verbs
  - A       *You must/can/should shut these doors.*
  - P       *These doors must/can/should be shut.*
  - A       *They should/ought to have told him.* (perfect infi. active)
  - P       *He should/ought to have been told.* (perfect infi. passive)
- ◆ A sentence containing a direct and an indirect object could have two passive forms
  - A       *Someone gave her a bulldog.*
  - P       *She was given a bulldog.*                             or
  - A bulldog was given to her.*
- ◆ When a verb + preposition + object combination is put into the passive, the preposition will remain immediately after the verb
  - A       *We must write to him.*
  - P       *He must be written to.*
  - A       *He looked after the children well.*
  - P       *The children were well looked after.*

## The Present Perfect Tense - DO

<p>I <u>have been invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>have been invited</u>.</p> <p>He/she/it <u>has been invited</u>.</p>	<p>We <u>have been invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>have been invited</u>.</p> <p>They <u>have been invited</u>.</p>
<p>I <u>have not (haven't) been invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>have not been invited</u>.</p> <p>He/she/it <u>has not (hasn't) been invited</u>.</p>	<p>We <u>have not been invited</u>.</p> <p>You <u>have not been invited</u>.</p> <p>They <u>have not been invited</u>.</p>
<p><u>Have</u> I <u>been invited</u>?</p> <p><u>Have</u> you <u>been invited</u>?</p> <p><u>Has</u> he/she/it <u>been invited</u>?</p>	<p><u>Have</u> we <u>been invited</u>?</p> <p><u>Have</u> you <u>been invited</u>?</p> <p><u>Have</u> they <u>been invited</u>?</p>

## The Present Perfect Tense - IO

I have been given a book.

You have been given a book.

He/she/it has been given a book.

We have been given a book.

You have been given a book.

They have been given a book.

I have not been given a book.

You have not been given a book.

He/she/it has not been given a book.

We have not been given a book.

You have not been given a book.

They have not been given a book.

Have I been given a book?

Have you been given a book?

Has he/she/it been given a book?

Have we been given a book?

Have you been given a book?

Have they been given a book?

## The Past Perfect Tense - DO

I had been invited.

You had been invited.

He/she/it had been invited.

We had been invited.

You had been invited.

They had been invited.

I had not (hadn't) been invited.

You had not been invited.

He/she/it had not been invited.

We had not been invited.

You had not been invited.

They had not been invited.

Had I been invited?

Had you been invited?

Had he/she/it been invited?

Had we been invited?

Had you been invited?

Had they been invited?

## The Past Perfect Tense - IO

<p>I <u>had been given</u> a book. You <u>had been given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>had been given</u> a book.</p>	<p>We <u>had been given</u> a book. You <u>had been given</u> a book. They <u>had been given</u> a book.</p>
<p>I <u>had not been given</u> a book. You <u>had not been given</u> a book. He/she/it <u>had not been given</u> a book.</p>	<p>We <u>had not been given</u> a book. You <u>had not been given</u> a book. They <u>had not been given</u> a book.</p>
<p><u>Had</u> I <u>been given</u> a book? <u>Had</u> you <u>been given</u> a book? <u>Had</u> he/she/it <u>been given</u> a book?</p>	<p><u>Had</u> we <u>been given</u> a book? <u>Had</u> you <u>been given</u> a book? <u>Had</u> they <u>been given</u> a book?</p>

# USES OF THE PASSIVE VOICE

- ◆ When it is not necessary to mention the doer of the action  
*The rubbish is collected every day.*
- ◆ When we don't know or have forgotten who did the action  
*The minister was murdered.*
- ◆ When the subject of the active verb would be 'people'  
*He is suspected of receiving stolen goods.*
- ◆ When the subject of the active sentence would be the indefinite pronoun *one*  
*This sort of advertisement is seen everywhere.*
- ◆ When we are more interested in the action than the person who does it  
*Daily papers are bought regularly.*
- ◆ It may be used to avoid an awkward or ungrammatical sentence  
*When he arrived he was arrested (by a detective).*