

# ภาษาอังกฤษ ป. 6

## Passive Voice

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## Use of Passive

Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action.

It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

**Example : My bike was stolen.**

In the example above, the focus is on the fact that my bike was stolen. I do not know, however, who did it.

Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than active voice, as the following example shows :

**Example : A mistake was made.**

In this case, I focus on the fact that a mistake was made, but I do not blame anyone (e.g. You have made a mistake.)

## Form of Passive

Subject + finite form of to be + Past Participle

(3rd column of irregular verbs)

**Example : A letter was written.**

When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following :

- the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence
- the finite form of the verb is changed  
(to be + past participle)
- the subject of the active sentence becomes the object of the passive sentence (or is dropped)

## Examples of Passive

Tense		Subject	Verb	Object
Simple Present	Active :	Rita	writes	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	is written	by Rita.
Simple Past	Active :	Rita	wrote	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	was written	by Rita.

<b>Present Perfect</b>	<b>Active :</b>	<b>Rita</b>	<b>has written</b>	<b>a letter.</b>
	<b>Passive :</b>	<b>A letter</b>	<b>has been written</b>	<b>by Rita.</b>
<b>Future I</b>	<b>Active :</b>	<b>Rita</b>	<b>will write</b>	<b>a letter.</b>
	<b>Passive :</b>	<b>A letter</b>	<b>will be written</b>	<b>by Rita.</b>
<b>Hilfsverben</b>	<b>Active :</b>	<b>Rita</b>	<b>can write</b>	<b>a letter.</b>
	<b>Passive :</b>	<b>A letter</b>	<b>can be written</b>	<b>by Rita.</b>

## Examples of Passive

Tense		Subject	Verb	Object
Present Progressive	Active :	Rita	is writing	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	is being written	by Rita.
Past Progressive	Active :	Rita	was writing	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	was being written	by Rita.
Past Perfect	Active :	Rita	had written	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	had been written	by Rita.



Tense		Subject	Verb	Object
Future II	Active :	Rita	will have written	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	will have been written	by Rita.
Conditional I	Active :	Rita	would write	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	would be written	by Rita.
Conditional II	Active :	Rita	would have written	a letter.
	Passive :	A letter	would have been written	by Rita.

## Passive Sentences with Two Objects

Rewriting an active sentence with two objects in passive voice means that one of the two objects becomes the subject, the other one remains an object. Which object to transform into a subject depends on what you want to put the focus on.

	Subject	Verb	Object 1	Object 2
Active :	Rita	wrote	a letter	to me.
Passive :	A letter	was written	to me	by Rita.
Passive :	I	was written	a letter	by Rita.

As you can see in the examples, adding by Rita does not sound very elegant. That's why it is usually dropped.

## Personal and Impersonal Passive

Personal Passive simply means that the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. So every verb that needs an object (transitive verb) can form a personal passive.

**Example : They build houses.**

**– Houses are built.**

**Verbs without an object (intransitive verb) normally cannot form a personal passive sentence (as there is no object that can become the subject of the passive sentence). If you want to use an intransitive verb in passive voice, you need an impersonal construction – therefore this passive is called Impersonal Passive.**

**Example : he says – it is said**

Impersonal Passive is not as common in English as in some other languages (e.g. German, Latin). In English, Impersonal Passive is only possible with verbs of perception (e. g. say, think, know).

**Example: They say that women live longer than men.**

**– It is said that women live longer than men.**

Although Impersonal Passive is possible here, Personal Passive is more common.

**Example: They say that women live longer than men.**

**– Women are said to live longer than men.**

The subject of the subordinate clause (women) goes to the beginning of the sentence; the verb of perception is put into passive voice. The rest of the sentence is added using an infinitive construction with 'to' (certain auxiliary verbs and that are dropped).

Sometimes the term Personal Passive is used in English lessons if the indirect object of an active sentence is to become the subject of the passive sentence.

## Exercise 1 : Write passive sentences in Simple Present.

1. the documents / print

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2. the window / open

---

3. the shoes / buy

---



4. the car / wash

---

5. the litter / throw away

---

6. the letter / send

---

7. the book / read / not

---

8. the songs / sing / not

---

9. the food / eat / not

---

10. the shop / close / not

---

## Exercise 2 : Write passive sentences in Simple Past.

1. the test / write

---

2. the table / set

---

3. the cat / feed

---

4. the lights / switch on

---

5. the house / build

---

6. dinner / serve

---

7. this computer / sell / not

---

8. the car / stop / not

---

9. the tables / clean / not

---

10. the children / pick up / not

---

## Exercise 3 : Write passive sentences in Present Perfect.

1. the postcard / send

---

2. the pencils / count

---

3. the door / close

---

4. the beds / make

---

5. the mail / write

---

6. the trees / plant

---

7. the money / spend

---

8. the room / book / not

---

9. the rent / pay / not

---

10. the people / inform / not

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## Exercise 4 : Write passive sentences in Future I.

1. the exhibition / visit

---

2. the windows / clean

---

3. the message / read

---

4. the thief / arrest

---

5. the photo / take

---

6. these songs / sing

---

7. the sign / see / not

---

8. a dictionary / use / not

---

9. credit cards / accept / not

---

10. the ring / find / not

---

## Exercise 5 : Rewrite the sentences in passive voice.

1. He opens the door.

---

2. We set the table.

---

3. She pays a lot of money.

---

4. I draw a picture.

---

5. They wear blue shoes.

---

6. They don't help you.

---

7. He doesn't open the book.

---

8. You do not write the letter.

---

9. Does your mum pick you up?

---

10. Does the police officer catch the thief?

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## Exercise 6 : Rewrite the sentences in passive voice.

1. She sang a song.

---

2. Somebody hit me.

---

3. We stopped the bus.

---

4. A thief stole my car.

---

5. They didn't let him go.

---

6. She didn't win the prize.

---



7. They didn't make their beds.

---

8. I did not tell them.

---

9. Did you tell them?

---

10. Did he send the letter?

## Exercise 7 : Rewrite the sentence into passive voice.

1. Rachel will give you some advice.

---

2. I sent him a letter.

---

3. The police officer showed us the way.

---

4. Our neighbor gave me a lift.

---

5. We have asked him a favor.

---

6. She told me a lie.

---

7. They have written her a postcard.

---

8. Kerrie will make you a cup of tea.

---

9. The waiter has not brought us the coffee.

---

10. They did not offer her a seat.

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## Exercise 8 : Complete the sentences (Active or Passive Voice). Use Simple Present.

1. He (sell) \_\_\_\_\_ cars.
2. The blue car (sell) \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. In summer, more ice-cream (eat) \_\_\_\_\_ than in winter.
4. She (call) \_\_\_\_\_ her grandparents every Friday.

5. The letters (type) \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. He (take) \_\_\_\_\_ his medicine every day.
7. Jane (take / not) \_\_\_\_\_ to school by her father.
8. We (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to school by bus.
9. She (work / not) \_\_\_\_\_ for a bank.
10. Milk (keep) \_\_\_\_\_ in the refrigerator.