

Passive Voice

John made a cake. (active)

A cake was made by John. (passive)

In the active sentence the 'agent' (John - subject) is important

In the passive sentence the 'object' (cake) becomes the focus

They built the church in 1859. (active) – Here the agent 'they' is important

The church was built in 1859. (passive) – Here the church is the focus, and the agent is not important

Look at the changes when we use the passive voice.

The verb '**to be**' changes with the different tenses, and we must use a **past participle**.

Tense	Active	Passive
present simple	I make a cake.	A cake is made (by me).
present continuous	I am making a cake.	A cake is being made (by me).
past simple	I made a cake.	A cake was made (by me).
past continuous	I was making a cake.	A cake was being made (by me).
present perfect	I have made a cake.	A cake has been made (by me).
past perfect	I had made a cake.	A cake had been made (by me).
future simple	I will make a cake.	A cake will be made (by me).
future perfect	I will have made a cake.	A cake will have been made (by me).

When do we use the passive?

- When the object is more important than the agent (*The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell*)
- When we don't know or don't care about the agent (*The town hall was built in 1946*)
- In more formal writing (*Work on the museum will be completed early next year*)
- In news (*150 people were diagnosed with the virus yesterday*)

Put in the correct form of the verb in these Passive sentences

1. The house _____ in 1975. (build)
2. The construction _____ early next year. (finish)
3. Bread _____ freshly every morning at the bakery. (make)
4. 30 people _____ in the earthquake. (kill)
5. A match _____ at the moment. (play)
6. A match _____ at 8 pm last night. (play)
7. The dessert _____ by the time I arrived to the dinner party. (eat)
8. By 12 pm today, the exam _____. (complete)
9. The Cathedral _____ in 1742 by a German architect. (design)
10. Fun activities _____ at the end of every class. (do)
11. The movie *Titanic* _____ by her over 10 times. (see)
12. The event _____ by millions of people all over the world. (watch)
13. The grass _____ by the gardener right now. (cut)
14. Her project _____ at 10 pm tonight. (finish)
15. The candle _____ in the church until closing time. (light)
16. Her hair _____ by a famous hairdresser last month. (style)

are / Leather / in / the north / shoes / made / Italy / of

bread / baked / every / Fresh / is / morning

will / Construction / finished / in / be / December

has / The / by the / grass / been / gardener / cut

windows / are / cleaned / being / The

were / in the / people / crash / injured / Five

by / closing time / All / had / sold / been / the bargains

was / played / at 7 pm / A match / last / being / Saturday

will / The / by 1 pm / exam / been / completed / have

The / in time / birthday cake / be / will / for the / made / party

Correct ✓ or **Incorrect** ✗
If incorrect, write the correct form.

The museum built in 1975. _____

The garden was designed by a famous landscape designer. _____

The bread baked freshly every morning. _____

2 people injured in the accident. _____

The baby has been given all of his vaccinations. _____

The house being painted. _____

The news is being read by a new presenter. _____

The house is built at the moment. _____

The picture drawn by the child. _____

The new bank will be opened by the city Mayor. _____

The child's hair washed two days ago. _____

New apartments are being built in Dublin 18. _____

The chicken being cooked in the oven. _____

The café has been painted. _____

The laptop I wanted had been sold by the time I arrived. _____

The clothes have washed. _____

The post has been delivered. _____

The new hotel was built by an Irish construction company. _____

Tropical flowers are grown in the greenhouse. _____