




PASSIVE VOICE

The passive voice is considered “weak.” It shows interest in the person or object that experiences an action rather than the person or object that performs the action.



Passive Form

The passive voice in English is composed of two elements: the appropriate form of the verb **'to be'** + the past participle of the verb in question:

Subject	verb 'to be'	past participle
The house	was	built...
The passive voice	is	composed...

Examples:

- *The passive is considered weak...*
We are interested in the passive, not who uses it.
- *The house was built in 1654.*
We are interested in the house, not the builder.
- *The road is being repaired.*
We are interested in the road, not the people repairing it.

Sometimes we use the passive voice because we don't know or cannot express who or what performed the action:

- *I noticed that a window had been left open.*
- *Every year people are killed on our roads.*

If we want to say who or what performs the action, we use the preposition **by**:

- *"A Hard Day's Night" was written by the Beatles.*
- *ET was directed by Spielberg.*

The passive voice is often used in formal or scientific texts:

- *A great deal of meaning is conveyed by a few well-chosen words.*
- *Our planet is wrapped in a mass of gases which create a greenhouse effect.*

Passive vs. Active

- In passive voice, the subject *receives* the action of the verb. In active voice, the subject *performs* the action of the verb.

Examples:

- (Passive voice) The boy was bitten by the dog.
- (Active voice) The dog bit the boy.

From Passive to Active

- Passive: The butter *is kept* in the fridge.
Active: We keep the butter in the fridge.
- Passive: The painting *was stolen*.
Active: Someone stole the painting.
- Passive: The road *is being repaired*.
Active: Workers are repairing the road.
- Passive: Hamlet *was written* by Shakespeare.
Active: Shakespeare wrote Hamlet.