

Personal Relationships!!



Active and Passive

All Verbs with only one exception, the Verb **to be**, have what are called *Active* and *Passive* forms.

The Verb form you learn to start with will be called Active as Verbs are by their basic definition: doing words which implies Action...

e.g. I speak, we eat, you do, he/she goes, are all Active forms of the respective Verbs; obviously expressing something going on.

And with the exception of the Verb **to be**, all other Verbs, even those which do not obviously describe actions, like *to know*, *to believe*, *to think* and so on; will have a Passive form as well as an Active. Let us have a look at the Passive, which is used a great deal in English. First let us see how it is formed:

The Form of the Passive

To form the Passive is quite simple: you take the Verb **to be** and follow it with the Past Participle of the Verb in question:

EXAMPLES: → speak is spoken; eat is eaten;

→ know is known; ~~have~~ is had etc

In English the Passive is used a great deal in all the Tenses, plus the Subjunctive. Please have a careful look at the Examples that follow in the different tenses. The only Verbs you cannot use in the Passive are the Verb *to be* and *Intransitive Verbs* (See Lesson Fourteen for more information about these).

When the Passive can't be used

Briefly *Intransitive Verbs* cannot have a *Direct object*, and as the *Passive* depends on the *Direct Object* to make complete sense, (**See Examples**), a verb without a *Direct Object* cannot have a *Passive*. Examples of these

apart from the Verb **to be** include Verbs of motion, like **to go, to fall, to come** and so on.

Neither can you often have a Passive with Commands - for fairly obvious reasons. '**Go and be washed**' is the only Passive Command I can think of, though there are very possibly other more likely examples...

Examples

The clearest method of demonstrating the Passive is by showing first the Active form, and then how it changes:

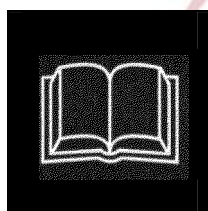
a) Present Tense

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
We speak English They eat their lunch Peter writes the letter	English is spoken by us Their lunch is eaten by them The letter is written by Peter

b) Past Tense

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
They saw our friends Mary closed the door I took my case We have learnt many things They have done a lot of work	Our friends were seen by them The door was closed by Mary My case was taken by me Many things have been learnt by us A lot of work has been done by them

The Passive, as indicated, can be used in all tenses, plus the *Subjunctive*. It is not possible in this necessarily brief look at the shape of English to give more than examples.



An A-Z of English Grammar and Usage, and the *Oxford Guide to English Grammar* will prove invaluable. You can find certainly the A-Z in bookshops, and both of these in your public library.

It is a good idea to consult your library anyway, because they will have books other than these which may be just as good, or better. These are only suggestions

Find Examples

Future

They will be seen (by many)

Conditional

We would be consulted (by the company)

Subjunctive

English may be spoken here (by us)

Modal Verbs

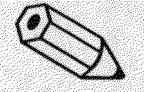
That must be done, that ought to be done

That must have been done, that ought to have been done

That will have to be done (Please notice change to have...)

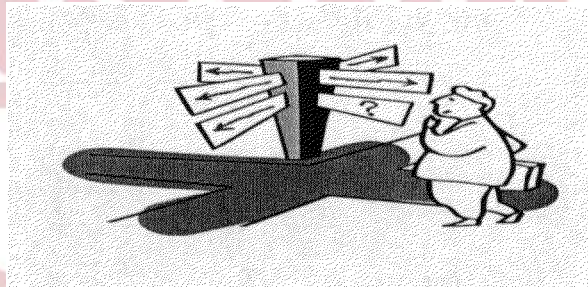
As you can see, the variations are almost endless, but do not worry, you will get used to them in time, and in practice you do not come across them a great deal anyway. But to look at them at least is to realize what a varied - and fascinating - language English is!

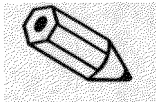
So here is Activity Three which sums up all you have done in this Lesson. Before you try it, have a look at all the topics we have been studying; the Subjunctive, Subjects & Objects, and now the Active & Passive.

Activity 3	Complete the following sentences; the Verb to use is in brackets:
	<p>1) Subjunctive</p> <p>a) If I (to be) you, I (buy: Conditional) that car</p> <p>b) God (to save) the Queen! Long _____ she reign!</p> <p>c) (1st Plural Command from to go) into the village this morning!*</p> <p>d) Peter (to be) a good boy at times, but I don't trust him!</p> <p>*Start with "let'</p> <p>2) Subjects & Objects</p> <p>Join the following sentences, using the Relative Pronouns: which, who, or that</p> <p>a) I want to play with the ball. It is under the table.</p> <p>b) Jet is my cat. He is black all over!</p>

	<p>c) Sheila is coming round the corner. She has my letter.</p> <p>d) John is very good at football, Everybody likes him.</p> <p>e) This is the house. Jack built the house.</p>
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Now which one?



Activity 4	Active and Passive Change the following sentences from the Active to the Passive e.g. Many people speak English → English is spoken by many people
	<p>a) That car overtakes the bus</p> <p>b) We have just shut the door</p> <p>c) My friends call me Tom*</p> <p>d) The dog chases the cat</p> <p>e) The snow covered The ground (Past)</p> <p>* Start: I am..</p>