

The Passive Voice

Usage

The passive is used to place emphasis on the object (recipient) of the verb (action) instead of the subject (doer) of the verb.

Pattern

BE + P.P.

The passive is formed from the Be verb (in most tenses—see examples below) and the past participle of the main verb. The doer of the verb is usually dropped from the sentence. To include it, use the phrase *by + person*.

Examples

Verb Tense	Active	Passive
simple present	The mechanic fixes the car.	The car is fixed (by the mechanic).
present progressive	The mechanic is fixing the car.	The car is being fixed.
simple past	The mechanic fixed the car.	The car was fixed.
past progressive	The mechanic was fixing the car.	The car was being fixed.
simple future	The mechanic will fix the car. The mechanic is going to fix the car.	The car will be fixed. The car is going to be fixed.
future progressive	The mechanic will be fixing the car.	—
present perfect	The mechanic has fixed the car.	The car has been fixed.
present perfect progressive	The mechanic has been fixing the car.	—
past perfect	The mechanic had fixed the car.	The car had been fixed.
past perfect progressive	The mechanic had been fixing the car.	—
future perfect	The mechanic will have fixed the car.	The car will have been fixed.
future perfect progressive	The mechanic will have been fixing the car.	—