Why use Passive Voice???

An active verb says what the subject does.

A passive one is used to say what happens to the subject .

We can’t create passives from intransitive verbs.

*e.g. Rick came later. NOT Rick was come later*

**Steps to follow when turning an active sentence into a passive one**

* **S-V-O** (identify the subject, verb and object in the active sentence).
* **O-> S** (the object of the active sentence turns into the subject of the passive one, therefore moves towards the beginning of it)
* **What Tense??? (** Identify the tense of your active sentence verb)
* **V2B-> adjusted to that tense**
* **PP** (Past Participle of active sentence verb, IF regular simply add an –ed suffix IF NOT then memorizing the list of irregular verbs will be handy)
* **By-phrase** used after the passive verb to say who causes the action.

Demonstration via examples

**Present simple passive: am/is/are +pp**

Active:You place an order one day and they deliver your groceries the next.

Passive: An order **is placed** one day and your groceries **are delivered** the next.

**Present continuous passive: am/is/are + being +pp**

Active:They are building a new school and creating two new roads for access.

Passive: A new school **is being built** and two new roads **are being created** for access.

**Past Simple Passive: was/were +pp**

Active: Air Canada cancelled our flight and stranded us in Vancouver.

Passive: Our flight **was cancelled** and we **were stranded** in Vancouver.

**Past Continuous passive: was/were+ being +pp**

Active: They were cleaning the floor and washing the windows earlier today.

Passive: The floor **was being cleaned** and the windows **were being washed** earlier today.

**Present Perfect passive: have/has +been +pp**

Active: He has delivered the parcels.

Passive : The parcels **have been delivered.**

**Past Perfect Continuous passive: had +been +pp**

Active : She had warned me about the weather.

Passive: I **had been warned** about the weather .

**Future Simple passive: will+ be +pp**

Active: Clive will mow the lawn.

Passive: The lawn **will be mowed** by Clive

**Modals +be+pp**

Active: He must train the inductees.

Passive: The inductees **must be trained.**

**Perfect modals +been +pp**

Active: He must have recycled the rubbish.

Passive: The rubbish **must have been recycled**

**Gerund ->being+pp**

Active: I object to his renovating the house.

Passive: I object to the house **being renovated .**

**Ever Heard Of…erh …. ERGATIVES?**

**Ergatives are transitive verbs that are used without an object. We use them to say that an action simply happens without an agent. We sometimes use ergatives instead of passives.**

The park closes at six. The door suddenly opened.

The park is closed (by the guard) at six. The door was suddenly opened.

**We can use ergatives when we want to describe natural processes**

The snow is melting. The material won’t shrink. The river has dried up this summer.

**Personal/Impersonal Construction**

The verbs *think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, understand, etc*

are used in the following passive patterns in personal and impersonal constructions.

**Active:** People **believe** that he lied in court.

**Passive: It is believed** that he lied in court. (impersonal)

**He is believed to have lied** in court. (personal)

**Active:** They **expect** him to arrive soon.

**Passive: It is expected (that)** he will arrive soon.

**He is expected to arrive** soon.