



PASSIVE VOICE - PRESENT & PAST

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PDF 1 – Active or Passive?

Understanding the Passive Voice

We often use the **active voice** when we want to say who does an action.

- *The chef cooks the food.*

We use the **passive voice** when the action or the result is more important than the person who does it.

- *The food is cooked by the chef.*

The basic form

Present Passive

am / is / are + past participle

English is spoken here.

Cars are made in this factory.

Past Passive

was / were + past participle

The building was opened in 1995.

The windows were cleaned yesterday.

1. Active or Passive?

Write **A** for active or **P** for passive.

1. People speak English in many countries. _____
2. English is spoken in many countries. _____
3. The company produces computers. _____
4. Computers are produced by the company. _____
5. Someone cleaned the room yesterday. _____
6. The room was cleaned yesterday. _____
7. They sell fresh bread here. _____
8. Fresh bread is sold here. _____

2. Complete the passive sentences

Use the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. English _____ in many countries. (*speak*)
2. These cars _____ in Japan. (*make*)
3. The rooms _____ every morning. (*clean*)
4. The restaurant _____ in 2010. (*open*)
5. The emails _____ yesterday. (*send*)
6. The windows _____ last week. (*wash*)
7. These products _____ in several countries. (*sell*)
8. The building _____ in 1985. (*build*)

3. Change active to passive

Example:

People make chocolate from cocoa beans.

→ Chocolate **is made** from cocoa beans.

1. People grow coffee in Brazil.

→ _____

2. They produce smartphones in many countries.

→ _____

3. Someone cleaned the office yesterday.

→ _____

4. They built the bridge in 2005.

→ _____

5. People speak Spanish in many countries.

→ _____

6. Someone painted the house last month.

→ _____

REAL ENGLISH BOX

We often use the passive when we **don't know who did something or who did it isn't important.**

My bike was stolen.

We don't know who stole it.

The road was closed yesterday.

The important information is that the road was closed.

In everyday English, this is very common.

Teacher's Key

1.

- 1 A
- 2 P
- 3 A
- 4 P
- 5 A
- 6 P
- 7 A
- 8 P

2.

- 1 is spoken
- 2 are made
- 3 are cleaned
- 4 was opened
- 5 were sent
- 6 were washed
- 7 are sold
- 8 was built

3.

- 1 Coffee is grown in Brazil.
- 2 Smartphones are produced in many countries.
- 3 The office was cleaned yesterday.
- 4 The bridge was built in 2005.
- 5 Spanish is spoken in many countries.
- 6 The house was painted last month.