



**University Center Abdelhafid Boussouf - Mila**  
**2019-2020 Semestre 02**  
**E-Learning unit**

## English - level 1

– Lesson 03 –  
**Active and Passive Voice**

Staff pédagogique

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Institut	Etudiants concernés		
	Département	Année	Spécialité
-Lettres et Langues étrangères	- Français	-Français	Licence 1
-Sciences et Techniques	-MI- ST	-MI- ST	Licence 1
-Sciences Economique	-SE	-Toutes les spécialités	Licence 1

## Objectives of lesson 03

- i. To make students aware of the use of active and passive voice.
- ii. To enable students to construct sentences using active and passive voice.

### Active and passive voice:

In relation to an object, an action is expressed in two ways known as:

#### 1. Active Voice:

It means that the sentence has a subject that acts upon its verb.

##### Structure of active voice:

**Subject+Verb+Object**

E.g. **I ate four apples.**

#### 2. Passive voice :

It means that the focus is mainly on the action and the subject is acted on by the verb.

##### ➤ Structure of passive voice: Object+Verb+Subject

E.g. **Four apples were eaten by me.**

**The rule:** To convert a sentence in the active voice into a sentence in its passive voice, follow the following steps:

1. Move the object first to take the subject position/\*.
2. Choose a form of the verb 'to be' that matches the tense of the active voice sentence.
3. Change the verb from its form into its past participle (P.Ps. of most verbs end in 'ed').
4. Write by+ subject

### **Active and passive:**

**Active :** the focus is on who the subject is and what the subject does:

\*\*She has written a long Facebook message.

**Passive:** The focus is on the action as such:

\*\*A long Facebook message has been written by her.letter is written by her.

**\*My smartphone was stolen.**

*In this example, the focus is on the fact that my smart mobile phone got stolen. I don't know, however, who stole it and what matters most is that I find my mobile phone as soon as possible.*

**Time for practice:**

*Transform these active sentences into passive ones.*

1. Boris will deliver an important speech tomorrow.  
.....
2. The hungry sparrow ate all the wheat on the ground.  
.....
3. Victor will clean the house.  
.....
4. Thomas published ten books.  
.....
5. My younger sister painted this room.  
.....
6. The headmaster might ask the Italian teachers an awkward question.  
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## References

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- 5) Chalker. S. (1992). A Student's English Grammar. Longman: England.
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