

Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Cellulee-learning



Anglais–Niveau 3

Lesson4 Active and Passive Voice

Staff pédagogique

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Etudiants concernés Semestre 1

| <i>Institut</i> | <i>Département</i> | <i>Année</i> | <i>Spécialité</i> |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Lettres et Langues</i> | <i>-Langues Etrangère</i> | <i>Licence3</i> | <i>Français.</i> |
| <i>Sciences Economique</i> | <i>Sciences Economique. Sciences Commerciales. Sciences de la Gestion.</i> | <i>Licence3</i> | <i>Toutes les spécialités.</i> |

Lesson's Objectives

- This lesson is designed to teach students how to rearrange a sentence so as to be either in active or in passive form.
- This lesson will also make students more familiar with the English structuring of sentences, thus becoming more capable of formulating them.

- By the end of this lesson, students will have learned how to emphasize on something rather than another while writing a sentence.

Active and Passive Voice

1. What is the difference between active and passive voice?

- Consider the following sentences:
 - ✓ Belaili scores the second goal. ('Belaili' is directly addressed as the one who performs the action of scoring)
 - ✓ The second goal is scored by Belaili. ('Belaili' here is indirectly addressed as he becomes the object who receives the action of scoring)
 - ✓ He broke the window. (The pronoun 'He' is known as the performer of the action)
 - ✓ The window was broken. (The performer of the action is unknown)

To answer what is the difference between active and passive voice, one can say that if the one who performs/does an action is directly addressed/known in a sentence, then the sentence is in the active voice. By contrast, if the one who performs the action is indirectly addressed or unknown, then the sentence is in the passive voiceⁱ.

- Reread the sentences again:

Note: when shifting from the active to passive voice, the auxiliary 'to be' should be added according to the tense of the verb, then come the past participle of the verb.

e.g.: Active _The dog is eating meat. ('is eating' is the present continuous of the verb 'to eat')

Passive _Meat is being eaten by the dog. ('is being' is the present continuous of the auxiliary 'to be' plus 'eaten' the past participle of the verb 'to eat')

2. When do we use passive voice?

It is said that the passive form is ‘weak’, and it should be avoided; however, there are some usages in which the passive voice is neededⁱⁱ. Below are someⁱⁱⁱ:

- When the doer of the action is unknown (like the fourth example above)

e.g.: Passive: Many research works were conducted on identity.

Active: Psychologists conducted many research works on identity.

- When you want to lay emphasis on the receiver rather than the doer of the action (see the second example above)

e.g.: Passive: The biography of Dr. Belkacem Haba was presented by a journalist.


Active: A journalist presented the biography of Dr. Belkacem Haba.

- When you want your writing to sound more technical:

e.g.: Passive: Medical analysis are needed to diagnose the condition of the patient.

Active: Doctor needs medical analysis to diagnose the condition of the patient.

Remark: The auxiliary ‘to be’ can be put in one of the following forms; **is, was, is or are being, was or were being, has/have or had been and will be**; plus, the past participle of the verb (regular verbs with –ed or past participle of irregular verbs).

 **It's time to train yourself.** Make the passive form of the following sentences:

- Sara calls the police. – Bilal buys a car.
- Sara called the police. – Bilal bought a car.
- Sara is/was calling the police. – Bilal is/was buying a car.

- Sara and Hicham are/were calling the police. –Bilal and Youcef are/were buying a car.
- Sara has called the police. –Bilal has bought a car.
- Sara and Hicham have called the police. –Bilal and Youcef have bought a car.
- Sara and Hicham will call the police. –Bilal and Youcef will buy a car.

ⁱSee, Active and Passive Voice, Survival Guide, The University of Western Australia. Retrieved from www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au

ⁱⁱSee, Active vs. Passive Voice: What's the Difference? What Should use? Why Does it Matter on www.aje.com

ⁱⁱⁱSee, What are passive verbs? On www.english-grammar-revolution.com