



# University Centre Abdelhafid Boussouf E-learning Centre



English –MA.1

## Lesson three Passive and active voice

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<i>Institute</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Specialty</i>
<i>Economic Science</i>	<i>Economic &amp; Commercial Science</i>	<i>Master one</i>	<i>All specialties</i>

**Objectives of the lesson:** the main purpose of this lesson is to discuss the Active and Passive Voice rules followed by examples

In English, we can express sentences in two different ways: active voice and passive voice.

### **Active voice:**

The active voice is used when the focus is on the subject of the main verb. This is the person or thing doing the verb.

For example: Only ten students passed the test.

### **Passive Voice:**

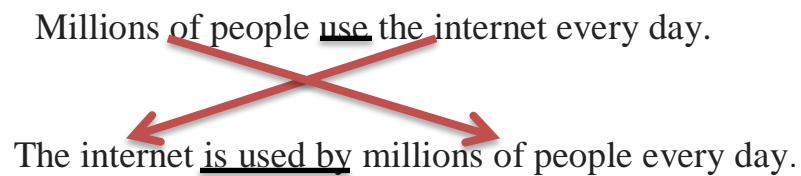
The passive voice is used when the person or the thing affected by the main verb becomes the focus.

For example: The test was passed by only six students.

### **Forming Passive Sentences:**

The passive voice is made with subject + to be + past participle + by + objects.

In the passive, the main verb is always the Past Participle.



### **Abbreviation:**

S: Subject

V: Verb

O: Object

P2: Past Participle

Tenses	Active voice	Passive voice
Present simple	S+ V + O He <b>writes</b> an essay	S+ am/ is/ are + P2. An essay <b>is written</b> <u>by</u> him
Present continuous	S+ am/ is/ are + V-ing+ O I <b>am eating</b> breakfast	S+ am/ is/ are + being+ P2. The breakfast <b>is being eaten</b> <u>by</u> me
Present perfect	S+ have/ has+ P2+ O. She <b>has cooked</b> the food	S+ have/ has+been+P2. The food <b>has been cooked</b> <u>by</u> her
Past simple	S+V (in the past tense) + O. My teacher <b>graded</b> my project last week.	S+ was/were+ P2. my project was graded by my teacher last week.
Past continuous	S+ was/were+ V-ing+ O Sara <b>was learning</b> Spanish	S+ was/were+ being+ P2 Spanish <b>was being learnt</b> <u>by</u> Sara
Past perfect	S+ had + P2+ O You <b>had done</b> the work	S+ had+ been+ P2 The work <b>had been done</b> <u>by</u> you
Future simple	S+ will + V-infinitive+ O The company <b>will hire</b> new workers	S+ will+ be + P2 New workers <b>will be hired</b> <u>by</u> the company
Future perfect	S+ will+ have+ P2+ O I <b>will have done</b> the work tomorrow	S+ will+ have+ been+ P2 The work <b>will have been done</b> <u>by</u> me tomorrow

## Passive voice with modals verbs:

Modal verbs, such as “can,” “could,” “may,” “might,” “shall,” “should,” “will,” “would,” “must,” and “ought to,” can also be used in the passive voice to indicate possibility, permission, ability, or necessity.

The structure for forming the passive voice with modal verbs is the modal verb + be + past participle of the main verb

For example:

- I can write a book (active v) / A book **can be written** by me

PS: While conversion of Active voice sentence to Passive voice sentence, the pronoun used in the sentence also changes in the following manner.

Active voice pronoun	Passive voice pronoun
I	Me
we	Us
you	You
They	Them
She	Her
He	Him
It	It