**Review of the Passive Voice & Worksheet**

Only sentences that contain the object of a verb can be changed to the passive voice.

**Active voice***: I invited John.*

 [subject] [verb] [object]

**Passive voice**: *John was invited by me.*

In a passive sentence, the object of the verb (in the active sentence) becomes the subject.

This is the structure for the passive voice:

 *John was invited (by me).*

 [subject] + [BE + Past Participle] (by actor)

The (by me) part of the sentence is optional.

**Reminder #1**

An active sentence that does not have an object cannot be made into the passive voice.

**Active voice**: She *cried*. (The *verb* has no object, so you cannot make a passive sentence)

**Active voice**: An accident *happened*. (Again, you cannot form a passive sentence without an object)

Intransitive verbs, verbs that never have an object, like *be, die, happen, exist, appear* can never be made into the passive voice. Only transitive verbs (*enjoy, kill, catch, show, etc*) can be used in the passive voice because they have an object. (Hint: They are called *trans*itive because you can *trans*fer an object to them.)

**Distinguishing between Passive and Active Voice**

Guideline 1: If the sentence does not contain BE + Past Participle, then it cannot be a passive sentence.

**John** *was eating* a snack. (= not passive – no BE + Past Participle)

Guideline 2: Look at the **subject** of the sentence and then the *verb*. Then ask yourself if the subject is the *actor* of the verb (did John eat?) or was the subject the *object* of the verb (Did someone eat John?). If the subject is the actor, then it’s an active sentence. If the subject is the object of the verb, then it’s a passive sentence.

**Intermediate Exercise #1 – Distinguishing between Active or Passive Voice**

Indicate if the below sentences are in the passive or active voice.

1. I have never been to Wichita.
2. I have never been arrested.
3. The tower was built in 1802 by a French Artist.
4. Nothing happened.
5. No one was injured by the fire.
6. The award was given to the top student.
7. We decided not to hire anyone.
8. The pizza was delicious.
9. The pizza was ordered.
10. The pizza made me sick.
11. I was made sick by the pizza.

**Intermediate Exercise #2 – Change Active sentences to Passive (Present Simple and Past Simple)**

1. I didn’t fix the problem.

2. Police protect the town.

3. John’s mother raised him in a small town.

4. Someone painted the building last year.

5. Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928.

6. Some students study grammar on the Internet.

**Intermediate Exercise #3 – Add the Appropriate Verb in the Past Simple**

Look at the subject and verb to determine if it is an active or passive sentence. Then add the appropriate verb. Use the Past Simple tense for this exercise.

1. Many people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (buy) tickets for the concert last year. All the tickets \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sell).

2. The child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (help) by his father. His toys \_\_\_ (pick up) and put into a drawer.

4. Scientists \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (discover) a new species of frog.

5. The students \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/raise) their hands.

6. Last night’s dinner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) by my wife.

7. The safety rules \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/follow), so an accident \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (happen).

8. Because the printer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (damage), we couldn’t print.

9. The house \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a swimming pool when I lived there.

10. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/allow) to drink alcohol when I was young.

**Advanced Exercise #1 – Distinguishing between Active or Passive Voice**

Mark if the sentence is in the active or passive voice. (Remember to look for the BE + Past Participle structure.)

1. The company was shut down by the police.

1. We had been given the wrong tickets.
2. She wishes she had been there.
3. He might not have been paying attention.
4. He should not have been asked to pay.
5. Chemicals can be toxic.
6. New regulations will be introduced next spring.

**Advanced Exercise #2 – Change Active sentences to Passive (Present Simple and Past Simple)**

1. Someone had broken the window by 3:00 p.m.

2. A strange man was watching us.

3. Tokyo will hold the Olympics in 2020.

4. We are working on the report right now.

5. My manager has told him to arrive earlier.

6. They could not have made the mistake.

7. I hope they are going to hire me soon.

**Advanced Exercise #3 – All Verb Tenses**

Look at the subject and verb to determine if it is an active or passive sentence. Then add the appropriate verb. Be careful with intransitive verbs (verbs that do not have an object – they cannot be used in the passive voice.)

1. That car looks like it has never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wash).
2. If I were you, I would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (contact) a lawyer.
3. Have you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (inform) yet about the new policy?
4. Unfortunately, the budget has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/approve) yet.
5. A smile \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (appear) on her face.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for 30 minutes. Where is the bus?
7. The performance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (happen) right now. Let’s go.
8. I’ll be happy if our plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (succeed).
9. The server \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (order) to clean up the mess he had made.
10. The judge ordered that smoking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (prohibit) in restaurants.
11. His grandfather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pass away) years ago.
12. The airplane, which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (operate) by Singapore Airlines, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (fly) by an experienced pilot.
13. I wouldn’t have complained if the food \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/be) overcooked.

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Answers available at http://www.englishcurrent.com/exercises/passive-voice-exercises/