



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE



Active Voice

- Denotes that the subject is performing the action.
- The active voice does not require a linking verb to make sense.
- The active voice focuses on the doer of the action.
- Has a direct, clear and strong tone.
- Examples:
 - I decorated the hall.
 - Devi gave Shanthi a gift.

Passive Voice

- Denotes that the subject is acted upon by the verb or action in the sentence.
- The passive voice uses a linking verb followed by the past participle of the main verb.
- The passive voice comes in handy when the doer of the action is undetermined.
- Has an indirect, weak and subtle tone
- Examples:
 - The hall was decorated by me.
 - Shanthi was given a gift by Devi.

Conversion Rules for Active Voice and Passive Voice

TENSES		SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PRESENT	PRESENT CONTINUOUS
PRESENT	ACTIVE	Brendon plays cricket.	Brendon is playing cricket.	Brendon has played cricket.	Brendon has been playing cricket.
	PASSIVE	Cricket is played by Brendon.	Cricket is being played by Brendon.	Cricket has been played by Brendon.	No Passive

PAST	ACTIVE	Brendon played cricket.	Brendon was playing cricket.	Brendon had played cricket.	Brendon had been playing cricket.
	PASSIVE	Cricket was played by Brendon.	Cricket was being played by Brendon.	Cricket had been played by Brendon.	No Passive
FUTURE	ACTIVE	Brendon will play cricket.	Brendon will be playing cricket.	Brendon will have played cricket.	Brendon will have been playing cricket.
	PASSIVE	Cricket will be played by Brendon.	No Passive	Cricket will have been played by Brendon.	No Passive

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
I	ME
HE	HIM
SHE	HER
IT	IT
THEY	THEM
WE	US

Examples of the Active and Passive Voice

Given below are a few examples of how to convert the active voice into the passive voice.

- **Active Voice** – Twinkle likes adventure stories.

Passive Voice – Adventure stories are liked by Twinkle.

- **Active Voice** – Latha is learning French this year.

Passive Voice – French is being learnt by Latha this year.

- **Active Voice** – Kurt has brought macaroons.

Passive Voice – Macaroons have been brought by Kurt.

- **Active Voice** – Sidharth played cricket.

Passive Voice – Cricket was played by Sidharth.

- **Active Voice** – They were making invitation cards.

Passive Voice – Invitation cards were being made by them.

- **Active Voice** – Becky had packed the bags.

Passive Voice – The bags had been packed by Becky.

- **Active Voice** – Mira will buy the refreshments for the party.

Passive Voice – The refreshments for the party will be bought by Mira.

- **Active Voice** – Sanjay will have given the forms to all the participants.

Passive Voice – The forms will have been given to all the participants by Sanjay.

Check Your Understanding of the Active Voice and the Passive Voice

Now that you have seen a number of examples and learnt how the conversion is done, try converting the following sentences as directed.

QUESTIONS

1. Varun is helping Reshmi. (Change into passive voice)
2. A gift was given to Manassa by me. (Change into active voice)
3. Santana will sing *All My Life* at the Nationals. (Change into active voice)
4. A mouse was being chased by my cat. (Change into active voice)
5. Naveen loves Praveena. (Change into passive voice)
6. The decorations for the annual day will be done by Emma. (Change into active voice)

7. J. K. Rowling wrote the Harry Potter novels. (Change into passive voice)
8. Ms. Holly will teach Spanish this year. (Change into passive voice)
9. Mike was hit by Nick. (Change into active voice)
10. Naslen is being scolded by his mom. (Change into active voice)

ANSWERS

Check out if you did the conversion right from the answers given below.

1. Reshmi ***is being helped by*** Varun.
2. I ***gave*** Manassa a gift.
3. *All My Life* ***will be sung by*** Santana at the Nationals.
4. My cat ***was chasing*** a mouse.
5. Praveena ***is loved by*** Naveen.
6. Emma ***will do*** the decorations for the annual day.
7. The Harry Potter novels ***were written by*** J. K. Rowling.
8. Spanish ***will be taught by*** Ms. Holly this year.
9. Nick ***hit*** Mike.
10. Naslen's mom ***is scolding*** him.