

Passive Voice

Form of to be: is, are, am, was, were, has been, have been, had been, will be, will have been, being

+

Past participle: form of the verb that typically, but not always, ends in "-ed." Some exceptions to the "-ed" rule are words like "paid" and "driven."

form of "to be" + past participle
= passive voice

Need more help deciding whether a sentence is passive? Ask yourself whether there is an action going on in the sentence. If so, what is at the front of the sentence? **Is it the person or thing that does the action? Or is it the person or thing that has the action done to it?** In a passive sentence, **the object of the action will be in the subject position at the front of the sentence.** As discussed above, the sentence will also contain a form of be and a past

participle. If the subject appears at all, it will usually be at the end of the sentence, often in a phrase that starts with "by." Take a look at this example:

The fish was caught by the seagull.

Action? -> yes: a fish is being caught.

What's at the front of the sentence? (the actor or the object of the action) -> object: the fish

The thing that did the catching=the seagull.

"The executive committee approved the new policy, and the calendar for next year's meetings was revised" VERSUS "The executive committee approved the new policy and revised the calendar for next year's meeting."

"The executive committee approved the new policy, and the calendar for next year's meetings was revised" VERSUS "The executive committee approved the new policy and revised the calendar for next year's meeting."

The metropolis has been scorched by the dragon's fiery breath. Becomes The dragon scorched the metropolis with his fiery breath.

100 votes are required to pass the bill. Becomes The bill requires 100 votes to pass

Baby Belle was delivered at 3:30 a.m. yesterday.(passive) Becomes Dr. Susan Jones delivered baby Sophia at 3:30 a.m. yesterday.(active)

The aurora borealis can be observed in the early morning hours.

The unidentified victim was apparently struck during the early morning hours.

"The new policy was approved by the executive committee." VERSUS "The executive committee approved the new policy."

"Cigarette ads were designed to appeal especially to children." VERSUS "We designed the cigarette ads to appeal especially to children."

"The President was advised that certain members of Congress were being audited" VERSUS "The Head of the Internal Revenue service advised the President that her agency was auditing certain members of Congress"

"The executive committee approved the new policy, and the calendar for next year's meetings was revised" VERSUS "The executive committee approved the new policy and revised the calendar for next year's meeting."

"I poured 20 cc of acid into the beaker." VERSUS "Twenty cc of acid is/was poured into the beaker."

Before the semester was over, the new nursing program had been approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Board of Trustees.

With five seconds left in the game, an illegal time-out was called by one of the players.

Later in the day, the employees were informed of their loss of benefits by the boss herself.

The major points of the lesson were quickly learned by the class, but they were also quickly forgotten by them.

For several years, Marie was raised by her elderly grandmother.

I was surprised by the teacher's lack of sympathy.

"Les Miserables" was written by Victor Hugo.

Tall buildings and mountain roads were avoided by Matthew because he had such a fear of heights.

“There is a considerable range of expertise demonstrated by the spam senders.”

“It was determined by the committee that the report was inconclusive.”

“We were invited by our neighbors to attend their party.”

“Groups help participants realize that most of their problems and secrets are shared by others in the group.”

“Minor keys, modal movement, and arpeggios are shared by both musical traditions.”

“In this way, the old religion was able to survive the onslaught of new ideas until the old gods were finally displaced by Christianity.”

A mistake was made.

My bike was stolen.

A letter was written.

Once a week, the house **is cleaned** by Tom.

The car **was repaired** by Sam.

The customer **was being helped** by the salesman when the thief came into the store.

That book **has been read** by many people. Top of Form

The restaurant's fantastic dinners **had been being prepared** by Chef Jones for two years before he moved to Paris.

The work **will be finished** by 5:00 PM.

The project **will have been completed** before the deadline. OR The project **is going to have been completed** before the deadline.

Works Cited

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1. I was surprised by the teacher's lack of sympathy.
2. The project **will have been completed** before the deadline.
3. That book **has been read** by many people. Top of Form
4. The restaurant's fantastic dinners **had been being prepared** by Chef Shay for two years before she moved to Paris.
5. The major points of the lesson were quickly learned by the class, but they were also quickly forgotten by them.

6. Tall buildings and mountain roads were avoided by Matthew because he had such a fear of heights.

7. With five seconds left in the game, an illegal time-out was called by one of the players.

8. The metropolis has been scorched by the dragon's fiery breath.

9. Baby Belle was delivered at 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

10. Cigarette ads were designed to appeal especially to children.