

THE FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE PASSIVE VOICE IN ENGLISH**Erkinova Rukhsora****Akhmedova Sojida****Erkinova Rukhsora Rustam kizi****Akhmedova Sojida Mansur kizi**

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ANNOTATION: The article explains the structural patterns and formulas of passive sentences, describing how the object of an active sentence changes its syntactic role to become the subject in a passive one. Moreover, it highlights the main difficulties English learners often face when learning the passive voice, such as confusion between active and passive structures, misunderstanding of tense changes, and lack of exposure to authentic examples in real-life communication. The article also emphasizes the pedagogical importance of introducing creative and engaging ways to teach the passive form, so that learners can understand not only the grammatical rules but also the communicative value of using it. In addition, this study discusses how the passive voice allows speakers to focus on the result or the receiver of an action rather than the doer, which can be particularly useful in academic writing, scientific reports, and formal contexts. By analyzing both the structure and function of the passive voice, this article aims to provide insights for teachers and learners to improve their mastery and practical application of this important grammatical feature in English.

KEY WORDS: Passive voice, grammatical structure, grammatical construction, academic writing, coherence, cohesion, precision

ANNOTATSIYA: Maqolada passiv gaplarning asosiy tuzilma qoliplari va formulalari tushuntirilib, faol gapdagi obyekt qanday qilib passiv gapda ega o'rniga chiqishi izohlanadi. Shuningdek, maqolada ingliz tili o'rganuvchilari duch keladigan asosiy qiyinchiliklar — faol va passiv gaplarni farqlashdagi chalkashliklar, zamon o'zgarishlarini to'g'ri qo'llay olmaslik, hamda passiv gaplarning real hayotdagi qo'llanishiga kam duch kelish holatlari ko'rsatib o'tilgan. Muallif passiv gapni o'rgatishda ijodiy va qiziqarli usullarni qo'llash zarurligini ta'kidlaydi, shunda o'rganuvchilar nafaqat grammatik qoidani, balki uning kommunikativ ahamiyatini ham chuqur anglay oladilar. Bundan tashqari, maqola passiv gapning ilmiy, rasmiy va akademik yozuvlarda, shuningdek, harakat bajaruvchisini ataylab ko'rsatmaslik zarur bo'lgan holatlarda qanday foydali bo'lishini yoritadi. Passiv gapning tuzilishi va funksiyasini tahlil qilish orqali ushbu maqola o'qituvchilar va o'rganuvchilarga bu grammatik shaklni yanada chuqurroq o'zlashtirish hamda amaliy nutqda samarali qo'llash uchun foydali tavsiyalar beradi.

KALIT SO'ZLAR: Passiv gap, grammatik tuzilma, grammatik qurilish, akademik yozuv, mantiqiy bog'liqlik, matnning yaxlitligi,

АННОТАЦИЯ : В статье объясняются основные схемы и формулы построения пассивных предложений, а также показано, как объект активного предложения становится подлежащим в пассивной форме. Кроме того, в работе выделяются основные трудности, с которыми сталкиваются изучающие английский язык: путаница между активными и пассивными структурами, неправильное использование временных форм и недостаток примеров из живой речи. Автор подчеркивает необходимость применения творческих и интересных методов преподавания пассивного залога, чтобы учащиеся могли понимать не только грамматические правила, но и коммуникативную ценность его использования. Также отмечается, что пассивный залог особенно полезен в научных, официальных и академических текстах, а также в случаях, когда необходимо умышленно не указывать исполнителя действия. Анализируя структуру и функции пассивного залога, данная статья предоставляет ценные рекомендации для преподавателей и изучающих английский язык, помогая им глубже освоить и эффективно применять эту важную грамматическую категорию в реальном общении.

Ключевые слова: Пассивный залог, грамматическая структура, грамматическая конструкция, академическое письмо, связность, целостность, точность

Tenses play a fundamental role in English grammar, as they indicate the time when an action takes place — whether in the past, present, or future. Understanding tenses enables learners to express actions clearly and accurately, showing whether something is happening now, has already happened, or will occur later. In English, there are three main tenses — Present, Past, and Future — and each of them has four aspects: Simple, Continuous, Perfect, and Perfect Continuous, making a total of twelve tenses. Each tense serves a specific function in communication and helps convey time relations more precisely. In addition to tenses, another important grammatical concept in English is the voice of a verb, which shows the relationship between the action and the subject. English has two types of voices: active and passive. A passive voice construction is a grammatical voice construction that is found in many languages.(1) While tenses focus on when an action happens, the voice focuses on who performs or receives the action. In the active voice, the subject performs the action (*e.g., The teacher explains the lesson*), whereas in the passive voice, the subject receives the action (*e.g., The lesson is explained by the teacher*). The passive voice is not a **subject + form of “to be” + past participle of the main verb**. It is often used when the doer of the action is unknown, unimportant, or not mentioned deliberately, or when the speaker wants to emphasize the receiver of the action rather than the performer. For example: *The book was written in 1920, The room is being decorated. A new hospital will be opened next month.* In these sentences, the focus is on the result or the object affected by the action, not on the person performing it. It reflects the universal need to focus not only on the performer of an action but also on the receiver, which shows the flexibility and diversity of human communication. Thus, both tenses and voice are essential components of English grammar. Tenses show the time of an action, while voice determines how that action relates to the subject. Mastering their use allows learners to communicate ideas more effectively, accurately, and naturally in English.

In English, the passive voice is formed by combining a form of the verb “to be” (and occasionally “to get”) with the past participle of a transitive verb. The doer of the action, also called the agent, can be included using a prepositional phrase with “by,” although this is optional and often omitted when the performer is unknown or unimportant. The general formula for a passive sentence is:

Subject + form of “to be” + past participle + (by + agent)
 Components of a Passive Sentence

Subject - The receiver of the action, which was the object in the corresponding active sentence. "The room",

Form of “to be”- The auxiliary verb “to be,” conjugated to match the subject and tense. "was"

Past Participle - The past participle form of the main verb. "cleaned"

(by + agent) - An optional prepositional phrase that identifies the performer of the action. "by her"

Example	Sentence	Breakdown
Active voice:	She cleaned the room.	

Passive voice: The room was cleaned by her.

In the passive construction, the focus shifts from the doer of the action (“She”) to the receiver (“the room”), which becomes the grammatical subject of the sentence. The agent “by her” is optional and can be omitted if the performer is unknown or irrelevant: The room was cleaned. (passive without agent)

This structure is consistent across different tenses, with the form of “to be” changing according to the tense while the past participle remains the same:

Present Simple: "The rooms are cleaned every day."

Past Continuous: "The walls were being painted when we visited."

Future Perfect: "The work will have been finished by Friday."

TENSES	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
Present simple	She delivers the books.	The books are delivered.
Past simple	She delivered the books	The books were delivered.
Future simple	She will deliver the books.	The books will be delivered.
Present continuous	She is delivering the books.	The books are being delivered.
Past continuous	She was delivering the books.	The books were being delivered.
Going to	She is going to deliver the books.	The books are going to be delivered.
Present perfect	She has delivered the books.	The books have been

		delivered.
Past perfect	She had delivered the books.	The books had been delivered.
Infinitive	She has to deliver the books.	The books have to be delivered.
Modals	She must deliver the books.	The books must be delivered.

The passive voice is an essential grammatical construction in English that shifts the focus from the doer of an action to the receiver of the action. Unlike the active voice, where the subject performs the action, the passive voice highlights the object or person affected by the action, allowing it to take the role of the grammatical subject. This makes sentences more flexible, objective, and formal, which is why the passive voice is widely used in academic, scientific, journalistic, and technical writing.

The passive voice is particularly useful in the following situations:

Emphasizing the receiver of the action:

One of the primary functions of the passive voice is to place attention on the entity receiving the action, making it the main focus of the sentence. This is often used when the result of the action is more important than the actor. Example: "The school library was renovated last month." Here, the focus is on the library, not on the workers who carried out the renovation.

When the performer of the action is unknown:

The passive voice allows writers to construct meaningful sentences even when the doer is unknown or cannot be identified. Example: "Several confidential documents were leaked recently." The identity of the person responsible is not known, but the emphasis is on the documents.

When the performer is irrelevant or unimportant:

In many contexts, the actor is not crucial to the message, and the emphasis should remain on the action or the result. Example: "A new species of bird has been discovered in the Amazon rainforest." The discovery itself is significant, while the identity of the scientist or team is secondary.

To create a formal, objective, or impersonal tone:

Academic, scientific, and professional writing often favors the passive voice because it reduces subjectivity, avoids personal pronouns, and maintains a neutral tone. This is particularly useful when presenting research results, procedures, or factual information. Example: "The chemical samples were analyzed under strict laboratory conditions." This emphasizes the procedure and findings rather than who conducted the experiment.

To maintain sentence cohesion and logical flow:

The passive voice can link sentences smoothly by turning the object of one sentence into the subject of the next, enhancing readability and coherence in essays, reports, and research papers. Example: "The survey was conducted across five major cities. The responses were then categorized according to demographic groups."

To avoid assigning blame or responsibility:

The passive voice is often used in situations where the speaker wishes to avoid naming the actor, whether to be diplomatic, neutral, or tactful. Example: "Mistakes were made during the project implementation." This construction highlights the issue without directly blaming anyone.

To highlight general truths, processes, or scientific facts:

The passive voice is particularly suitable for describing processes, natural phenomena, or widely accepted facts where the actor is not relevant. Example: "Water is boiled before it is used in laboratory experiments." Here, the focus is on the process rather than on who is performing it.

The passive voice allows writers to emphasize the result, the recipient, or the action itself, rather than the doer. It is versatile and can be used in any tense, including simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous forms. Passive constructions improve the formality, objectivity, and flow of writing, making them indispensable in academic and professional contexts. By strategically using the passive voice, writers can control focus, avoid unnecessary repetition, and maintain a neutral or diplomatic tone. In a clause with passive voice, the grammatical subject expresses the theme or patient of the main verb – that is, the person or thing that undergoes the action or has its state changed[2]. This shift of focus from the doer to the receiver of the action demonstrates how language can highlight different aspects of meaning depending on communicative purpose.

The passive voice plays a vital role in English grammar by allowing speakers and writers to shift focus from the doer of an action to the receiver or the result itself. Its structure, consisting of a form of the verb "to be" followed by the past participle, provides flexibility for expressing ideas in various tenses and contexts. The passive voice is especially useful when the agent is unknown, unimportant, or intentionally omitted, creating a more objective and formal tone that suits academic, scientific, and professional communication. Understanding both the function and structure of the passive voice enables learners to use it effectively and appropriately, ensuring clarity, coherence, and precision in their language use. Mastery of this grammatical form not only enhances writing skills but also deepens comprehension of how English organizes and presents information.

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