

ACTIVE TO PASSIVE VOICE

Complete Solved Exercises with Comprehensive Grammatical Rules & Explanations

General Rules for Passive Voice Transformation:

1. **Object becomes Subject:** The direct object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
2. **Helping Verb (Auxiliary):** Insert the correct form of 'be' matching the tense and new subject.
3. **Past Participle (V3):** Convert the main verb into its 3rd form (Past Participle).
4. **By + Agent:** Place the original subject after 'by' (changed to its object pronoun form, e.g., *he* → *him*, *she* → *her*, *they* → *them*).

EXERCISE 1

SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Formula: Active [S + V1/s/es + O] → Passive [New Subj + is/am/are + V3 + by + New Obj]

1. **Active: She writes a letter.**

Passive: A letter is written by her.

EXPLANATION: In Simple Present, the object 'A letter' (singular) becomes the subject, followed by auxiliary 'is'. Main verb 'writes' changes to V3 'written'. Active subject 'She' changes to object pronoun 'her' after 'by'.

2. **Active: Children like sweets.**

Passive: Sweets are liked by children.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'Sweets' becomes the new subject, taking plural auxiliary 'are'. Verb 'like' transforms to V3 'liked'. Subject 'Children' remains as the agent.

3. **Active: He visits some of his friends on week ends.**

Passive: Some of his friends are visited by him on weekends.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'Some of his friends' becomes the subject, taking auxiliary 'are'. Verb 'visits' becomes V3 'visited'. Subject 'He' converts to 'him'. Time phrase 'on weekends' stays at the end.

4. **Active: Cats chase mice.**

Passive: Mice are chased by cats.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'Mice' becomes the new subject, accompanied by 'are'. Main verb 'chase' changes to V3 'chased', and subject 'Cats' becomes the agent after 'by'.

5. **Active: They play cricket.**

Passive: Cricket is played by them.

EXPLANATION: Singular uncountable noun 'Cricket' becomes the subject with singular auxiliary 'is'. Verb 'play' becomes 'played', and subject pronoun 'They' changes to 'them'.

6. Active: We obey our teachers.

Passive: Our teachers are obeyed by us.

EXPLANATION: Object 'Our teachers' (plural) becomes the subject, taking auxiliary 'are'. Main verb 'obey' changes to V3 'obeyed'. Active subject 'We' changes to 'us'.

7. Active: Our teachers give us much encouragement.

Passive: We are given much encouragement by our teachers. / Much encouragement is given to us by our teachers.

EXPLANATION: This has two objects: indirect 'us' and direct 'much encouragement'. Taking indirect object 'us' as subject 'We', we use 'are given'. 'Much encouragement' stays as retained object.

8. Active: Do you help the poor?

Passive: Are the poor helped by you?

EXPLANATION: In interrogative Simple Present, auxiliary 'Do' is replaced by 'Are' because 'the poor' (representing poor people as a plural group) becomes the subject, followed by V3 'helped'.

9. Active: Does she write books?

Passive: Are books written by her?

EXPLANATION: Question starting with 'Does' changes to auxiliary 'Are' matching plural subject 'books'. Verb 'write' becomes 'written' and 'she' changes to 'her'.

10. Active: Who rings the bell?

Passive: By whom is the bell rung?

EXPLANATION: 'Who' converts to 'By whom' at the start. Singular object 'the bell' takes auxiliary 'is' placed before it, and verb 'rings' changes to V3 'rung'.

11. Active: Why do you read such books?

Passive: Why are such books read by you?

EXPLANATION: Question word 'Why' remains at the beginning. Auxiliary 'do' changes to 'are' for plural subject 'such books'. Main verb 'read' (pronounced red) is V3.

12. Active: Why don't you speak the truth?

Passive: Why is the truth not spoken by you?

EXPLANATION: Negative question structure retains 'Why'. Singular object 'the truth' takes auxiliary 'is'. Negative 'not' follows the subject, and 'speak' becomes V3 'spoken'.

13. Active: Why do you tell lies?

Passive: Why are lies told by you?

EXPLANATION: Question word 'Why' stays. Plural object 'lies' takes auxiliary 'are' before subject. Main verb 'tell' transforms to V3 'told'.

14. Active: Who washes the dishes?

Passive: By whom are the dishes washed?

EXPLANATION: 'Who' transforms to 'By whom'. Plural object 'the dishes' requires auxiliary 'are' placed before it. Verb 'washes' changes to V3 'washed'.

15. Active: Where does the washerman wash the clothes?

Passive: Where are the clothes washed by the washerman?

EXPLANATION: Wh-word 'Where' remains. Auxiliary 'does' changes to 'are' matching plural subject 'the clothes'. Main verb 'wash' becomes V3 'washed'.

16. Active: Who pays you respect?

Passive: By whom are you paid respect? / By whom is respect paid to you?

EXPLANATION: 'Who' becomes 'By whom'. Using indirect object 'you' as subject requires auxiliary 'are'. Verb 'pays' becomes V3 'paid', leaving 'respect' in place.

17. Active: Where do you send these letters?

Passive: Where are these letters sent by you?

EXPLANATION: 'Where' remains first. Auxiliary 'do' turns to 'are' for plural subject 'these letters'. Main verb 'send' converts to V3 'sent'.

18. Active: How do you do such difficult sums?

Passive: How are such difficult sums done by you?

EXPLANATION: 'How' stays. Auxiliary 'do' becomes 'are' for plural noun phrase 'such difficult sums'. Main verb 'do' changes to V3 'done'.

19. Active: When do you do your homework?

Passive: When is your homework done by you?

EXPLANATION: 'When' remains at start. Uncountable/singular object 'your homework' takes auxiliary 'is'. Main verb 'do' turns into V3 'done'.

20. Active: Why do you make so much noise?

Passive: Why is so much noise made by you?

EXPLANATION: 'Why' stays. Singular phrase 'so much noise' takes auxiliary 'is'. Main verb 'make' transforms to V3 'made'.

EXERCISE 2

SIMPLE PAST TENSE

Formula: Active [S + V2 + O] → Passive [New Subj + was/were + V3 + by + New Obj]

1. **Active:** She wrote a letter to her mother a couple of days ago.

Passive: A letter was written to her mother by her a couple of days ago.

EXPLANATION: Simple Past verb 'wrote' (V2) changes to 'was written' because object 'A letter' is singular. Active subject 'She' becomes 'her'.

2. **Active:** The teacher gave him much encouragement.

Passive: He was given much encouragement by the teacher.

EXPLANATION: Indirect object pronoun 'him' becomes subject 'He'. Past tense uses 'was given' (was + V3). Object 'much encouragement' remains.

3. **Active:** We hired a bus to visit Islamabad.

Passive: A bus was hired by us to visit Islamabad.

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'A bus' becomes subject with auxiliary 'was'. Verb 'hired' is V3. Subject 'We' becomes 'us'. Infinitive phrase 'to visit Islamabad' remains attached.

4. **Active:** The rich man distributed alms to the needy people.

Passive: Alms were distributed to the needy people by the rich man.

EXPLANATION: Noun 'Alms' is treated as plural in English, so it takes 'were distributed'. Active subject 'The rich man' becomes agent after 'by'.

5. **Active:** The surgeon operated the patient.

Passive: The patient was operated on by the surgeon.

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'The patient' takes auxiliary 'was'. Verb 'operated' turns to V3 'operated' (often used with preposition 'on').

6. **Active:** Did they do their homework in time?

Passive: Was their homework done by them in time?

EXPLANATION: Interrogative Simple Past 'Did' changes to 'Was' because new subject 'their homework' is singular. Verb 'do' becomes V3 'done'.

7. **Active:** Did he waste your time?

Passive: Was your time wasted by him?

EXPLANATION: 'Did' changes to 'Was' matching singular uncountable subject 'your time'. Main verb 'waste' converts to V3 'wasted', 'he' changes to 'him'.

8. **Active:** Did she recite the Holy Quran?

Passive: Was the Holy Quran recited by her?

EXPLANATION: Past question 'Did' becomes 'Was' for singular subject 'the Holy Quran'. Verb 'recite' becomes V3 'recited', 'she' changes to 'her'.

9. Active: Did Columbus discover America?

Passive: Was America discovered by Columbus?

EXPLANATION: 'Did' changes to 'Was' for proper noun subject 'America'. Main verb 'discover' changes to V3 'discovered'.

10. Active: Did Marconi invent Radio?

Passive: Was Radio invented by Marconi?

EXPLANATION: Past question starts with 'Was' for singular object 'Radio'. Main verb 'invent' changes to V3 'invented'.

11. Active: Where did the washerman wash the clothes?

Passive: Where were the clothes washed by the washerman?

EXPLANATION: Wh-word 'Where' stays. Past auxiliary 'did' changes to 'were' because 'the clothes' is plural. Main verb 'wash' becomes V3 'washed'.

12. Active: When did you recite the poem?

Passive: When was the poem recited by you?

EXPLANATION: 'When' remains at start. Auxiliary 'did' changes to 'was' for singular subject 'the poem'. Main verb 'recite' becomes V3 'recited'.

13. Active: How did you complete this task?

Passive: How was this task completed by you?

EXPLANATION: Question word 'How' stays. Auxiliary 'did' becomes 'was' matching singular subject 'this task'. Verb 'complete' turns to V3 'completed'.

14. Active: Who broke this news to you?

Passive: By whom was this news broken to you?

EXPLANATION: 'Who' transforms to 'By whom'. Uncountable noun 'this news' is singular, requiring auxiliary 'was'. Verb 'broke' changes to V3 'broken'.

15. Active: Why did you tell lies?

Passive: Why were lies told by you?

EXPLANATION: 'Why' stays. Simple Past auxiliary 'did' turns to 'were' for plural subject 'lies'. Verb 'tell' becomes V3 'told'.

EXERCISE 3

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Formula: Active [S + is/am/are + V-ing + O] → Passive [New Subj + is/am/are + being + V3 + by + New Obj]

1. **Active: The shoemaker is mending the shoes.**

Passive: The shoes are being mended by the shoemaker.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'The shoes' becomes subject, taking 'are being' for Present Continuous. Main verb 'mending' transforms to V3 'mended'.

2. **Active: The masons are building a grand hotel.**

Passive: A grand hotel is being built by the masons.

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'A grand hotel' becomes subject with 'is being'. Verb 'building' converts to V3 'built'.

3. **Active: Your uncle is sending you a gift.**

Passive: You are being sent a gift by your uncle. / A gift is being sent to you by your uncle.

EXPLANATION: Indirect object 'you' becomes subject with 'are being'. Main verb 'sending' becomes V3 'sent'. Direct object 'a gift' is retained.

4. **Active: The paper-setter is setting the paper.**

Passive: The paper is being set by the paper-setter.

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'The paper' takes 'is being'. V3 of 'setting' is 'set'.

5. **Active: They are attending a lecture.**

Passive: A lecture is being attended by them.

EXPLANATION: Singular subject 'A lecture' takes 'is being'. Verb 'attending' changes to V3 'attended'. Subject 'They' becomes 'them'.

6. **Active: Am I not giving you proper guidance?**

Passive: Are you not being given proper guidance by me?

EXPLANATION: Continuous question with subject 'you' begins with 'Are'. Structure follows: Auxiliary + Subj + not + being + V3 ('given') + Agent ('by me').

7. **Active: Is he starting a new business?**

Passive: Is a new business being started by him?

EXPLANATION: Singular subject 'a new business' keeps auxiliary 'Is' at the front, followed by 'being' and V3 'started'. Active 'he' becomes 'him'.

8. **Active: Are you not wasting your time?**

Passive: Is your time not being wasted by you?

EXPLANATION: Object 'your time' is singular uncountable, so auxiliary changes from 'Are' to 'Is'. Negative form becomes 'Is your time not being wasted...!'.

9. Active: Are you managing your time properly?

Passive: Is your time being managed properly by you?

EXPLANATION: Auxiliary changes to 'Is' for singular subject 'your time'. Continuous marker 'being' precedes V3 'managed'.

10. Active: Are the scientists conducting new experiments?

Passive: Are new experiments being conducted by the scientists?

EXPLANATION: Plural subject 'new experiments' keeps auxiliary 'Are'. Verb 'conducting' becomes 'being conducted'.

11. Active: Why is he disturbing them?

Passive: Why are they being disturbed by him?

EXPLANATION: 'Why' stays. Pronoun object 'them' becomes subject 'they', changing auxiliary from 'is' to 'are'. Followed by 'being disturbed by him'.

12. Active: What actions are you taking against the culprits?

Passive: What actions are being taken against the culprits by you?

EXPLANATION: Question phrase 'What actions' (plural) remains as head, taking 'are being taken'. Prepositional phrase 'against the culprits' stays attached.

13. Active: When are you attending the seminar?

Passive: When is the seminar being attended by you?

EXPLANATION: 'When' stays. Singular subject 'the seminar' changes auxiliary from 'are' to 'is', followed by 'being attended'.

14. Active: How are they promoting good values in the society?

Passive: How are good values being promoted in the society by them?

EXPLANATION: 'How' stays. Plural object 'good values' takes auxiliary 'are'. Verb 'promoting' transforms to 'being promoted'.

15. Active: Where are they conducting the exams?

Passive: Where are the exams being conducted by them?

EXPLANATION: Wh-word 'Where' stays. Plural subject 'the exams' uses auxiliary 'are' + 'being conducted by them'.

16. Active: Who is teaching you English these days?

Passive: By whom are you being taught English these days? / By whom is English being taught to you these days?

EXPLANATION: 'Who' becomes 'By whom'. Plural pronoun subject 'you' takes auxiliary 'are' + 'being taught'. Direct object 'English' remains intact.

EXERCISE 4

PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

Formula: Active [S + was/were + V-ing + O] → Passive [New Subj + was/were + being + V3 + by + New Obj]

1. **Active: The carpet-cleaner was cleaning the carpets.**

Passive: The carpets were being cleaned by the carpet-cleaner.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'The carpets' becomes subject, taking 'were being' for Past Continuous. Verb 'cleaning' transforms to V3 'cleaned'.

2. **Active: She was making her maiden speech.**

Passive: Her maiden speech was being made by her.

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'Her maiden speech' takes auxiliary 'was being'. Verb 'making' changes to V3 'made', and active 'she' becomes 'her'.

3. **Active: They were settling the dispute.**

Passive: The dispute was being settled by them.

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'The dispute' becomes subject with 'was being'. Verb 'settling' becomes V3 'settled', 'they' converts to 'them'.

4. **Active: The horses were eating the oats.**

Passive: The oats were being eaten by the horses.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'The oats' takes auxiliary 'were being'. Verb 'eating' changes to V3 'eaten'.

5. **Active: Ahmed and Owais were doing different exercises.**

Passive: Different exercises were being done by Ahmed and Owais.

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'Different exercises' becomes subject taking 'were being'. Verb 'doing' becomes V3 'done'.

6. **Active: Was she drawing a picture?**

Passive: Was a picture being drawn by her?

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'a picture' keeps auxiliary 'Was' at start, followed by 'being' and V3 'drawn'. Active 'she' becomes 'her'.

7. **Active: Were they buying apples?**

Passive: Were apples being bought by them?

EXPLANATION: Plural subject 'apples' keeps auxiliary 'Were' at start, followed by 'being bought'. Active pronoun 'they' turns into 'them'.

8. **Active: Was Fiza helping the mother in the kitchen?**

Passive: Was the mother being helped by Fiza in the kitchen?

EXPLANATION: Singular object 'the mother' retains auxiliary 'Was'. Verb 'helping' transforms to 'being helped'. Prepositional phrase 'in the kitchen' follows.

9. Active: Were Aslam and Babar serving tea to the guests?

Passive: Was tea being served to the guests by Aslam and Babar?

EXPLANATION: Object 'tea' is singular uncountable, so auxiliary changes from 'Were' to 'Was'. Structure: Was + tea + being + served...

10. Active: Were they exchanging hot words?

Passive: Were hot words being exchanged by them?

EXPLANATION: Plural object 'hot words' keeps auxiliary 'Were' at front. Verb 'exchanging' transforms to 'being exchanged'.

11. Active: Why were they giving lame excuses?

Passive: Why were lame excuses being given by them?

EXPLANATION: 'Why' stays. Plural subject 'lame excuses' uses 'were being'. Verb 'giving' converts to V3 'given'.

12. Active: How were the trainers training the teachers?

Passive: How were the teachers being trained by the trainers?

EXPLANATION: 'How' stays. Plural object 'the teachers' keeps 'were'. Verb 'training' becomes 'being trained'.

13. Active: Where was he sending these letters?

Passive: Where were these letters being sent by him?

EXPLANATION: 'Where' stays. Plural object 'these letters' changes auxiliary from 'was' to 'were', followed by 'being sent by him'.

14. Active: When was she arranging the party?

Passive: When was the party being arranged by her?

EXPLANATION: 'When' stays. Singular object 'the party' uses auxiliary 'was'. Verb 'arranging' changes to 'being arranged'. Active 'she' becomes 'her'.

15. Active: How were the surgeons operating the patients?

Passive: How were the patients being operated on by the surgeons?

EXPLANATION: 'How' stays. Plural object 'the patients' uses auxiliary 'were'. Verb 'operating' converts to 'being operated on'.