

## ***Passive* 1 *passive* 2**

In the active voice, the subject of the sentence DOES the action:

Ex: Jake wrote a letter.

In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence is acted upon:

Ex: A letter was written (by Jake).

Notice that the object of the active sentence (letter) became the subject of the passive sentence.

If we want, we can include "by Jake" to say who did the action.

### **We do not include "by..." when:**

1. The doer of the action is unknown:

The money was stolen.

2. The doer of the action is "people in general":

Black cats are believed to bring bad luck.

3. The doer of the action is completely unimportant:

This bridge was built in 1889.

## ***Structure of the passive voice***

Simple Present

Active: Factory workers test the products.

Passive: The products are tested.

Simple past

Active: An interior design company renovated our facilities last month.

Passive: Our facilities were renovated last month.

Simple future

Active: The company **is going to** implement the policy next month.

Passive: The policy **is going to be** implemented next month.

Present continuous

Active: Teachers **are using** the new book in their classrooms.

Passive: The new book **is being used** in classrooms.

Past continuous

Active: I spoke up when I saw that my manager **was ignoring** the safety regulations.

Passive: I spoke up when I saw that the safety regulations **were being ignored**.

Present perfect

Active: Somebody **has eaten** the last piece of cake.

Passive: The last piece of cake **has been eaten**.

Past perfect

Active: I discovered that someone **had copied** my brilliant idea.

Passive: I discovered that my brilliant idea **had been copied**.

Future perfect

Active: The store **will have delivered** the furniture by Friday.

Passive: The furniture **will have been delivered** by Friday.

**We can also add modal verbs to passive structures**

Active voice: CAN

**She can play a violin.**

She cannot play a violin.

Can she play a violin?

Passive voice: CAN BE

A violin **can be played** by her.

A violin cannot be played by her.  
Can a violin be played by her?

Active voice: MAY

I **may** buy the computer.

I may not buy the computer.

May I buy the computer?

Passive voice: MAY BE

The computer **may be bought** by me.

The computer may not be bought by me.

May the computer be bought by me?

Active voice: MIGHT

Guests **might** play chess.

Guests might not play chess.

passive voice: MIGHT BE

Chess **might be** played by guests.

Chess might not be played guests.

Active voice: SHOULD

Students should study all lessons.

Students should not study all lessons.

Should students study all lessons?

Passive voice: SHOULD BE

All lessons **should be studied** by students.  
All lessons should not be studied by students.  
Should all lessons be studied by students?

Active voice: MUST

You must learn the test-taking strategies.  
You must not learn the test-taking strategies.

Passive voice: MUST BE

Test-taking strategies must be learned by you.  
Test-taking strategies must not be learned by you.

Active voice: OUGHT TO

They ought to take the examination.

passive voice: OUGHT TO BE

The examination **ought to be taken** by them.

Active voice: MAY HAVE

You **may have availed** the opportunity.  
You may not have availed the opportunity.

Passive voice: MAY HAVE BEEN

The opportunity **may have been availed** by you.

The opportunity may not have been availed by you.

Active voice: MIGHT HAVE

He **might have eaten** meal.

He might not have eaten meal.

Passive voice: MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Meal **might have been eaten** by him.

Meal might not have been eaten by him.

Active voice: SHOULD HAVE

You **should have studied** the book.

You should not have studied the book.

Passive voice: SHOULD HAVE BEEN

The book **should have been** studied by you.

The book should have not been studied by you.

Active voice: MUST HAVE

He **must have started** job.

He must not have started job.

Passive voice: MUST HAVE BEEN

Job **must have been started**.

Job must not have been started.

Active voice: OUGHT TO HAVE

You **ought to have helped** him.

Passive voice: OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN  
He **ought to have been helped** by you