

Active and Passive Voice

- **VOICE** indicates if the subject acts or is being acted upon.
- **ACTIVE VOICE:** Kristen wrote the report (the subject, Kristen, acts).
- **PASSIVE VOICE:** The report was written by Kristen (the subject, the report, was acted upon).

Active and Passive Voice

- When you use the **ACTIVE VOICE**, you achieve greater precision when you answer *who* or *what* performs each action.

Active and Passive Voice

- The problem with **PASSIVE VOICE** is that it begs this question:

Who or what performed the action?

- Some passive sentences quickly answer *the who or what question* with a prepositional phrase:

The report **was written** by Kristen.

- The **passive construction** has the same meaning of the tense as the active construction, and the same adverbs of time are used with the tenses in the active and in the passive.
- The **passive construction** has the same meaning of the tense as the active construction, and the same adverbs of time are used with the tenses in the active and in the passive.

Active and Passive Voice

| Passive Voice | Present | Past | Future |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Indefinite | am/are/is given | was/were given | shall/will be given |
| Continuous | am/are/is being given | was/were being given | - |
| Perfect | has/have been given | had been given | shall/will have been given |
| Perfect Continuous | - | - | - |

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate active and passive verb forms (present simple, present continuous, past simple, past continuous, past perfect). This is based on the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Indiana (steal) the idol from a temple, but it (steal) from him by Belloq. Then, Indiana (have) to run from the natives, who (tell) to kill Indiana. While he (run), he (shout) "Start the plane!"

Later, Indiana (ask) to find the Ark before the Nazis (do). He (go) to find Abner Ravenwood. He (find) Ravenwood's daughter, Marion, in Mongolia. Marion (attack) by Nazis, but with Indiana's help she (survive).

Now, Indiana, Marion, and Belloq (be) in Cairo. They (look) for the Ark.

Change the following active sentences to the passive.

1. Many people have attacked Indiana.
Indiana (attack) by many people.
2. Many people had attacked Indiana before he left for Egypt. Indiana (attack) many times before he left for Egypt.
3. Indiana was teaching the female student who wrote "love you" on her eyelids. The student who wrote "love you" on her eyelids (teach) by Indiana.
4. Actually a friend wrote "love you" on the girl's eyelids. "Love you" (write) by a friend.
5. The Germans are hunting Indiana. Indiana (hunt) by the Germans.

Filling the gaps with prepositions with,by.

- The hall was decorated ... pink balloons.
- The roof of the church will be repaired ... local people.
- This material has been already published ... Cambridge University Press.
- The house was built ... money that he had borrowed from the bank.
- When the accident happened, the car was brought ... police.

- **1. This theatre ... (build) over 100 years ago.**
- a. had been built
- b. has been built
- c. was built

- **2. Is your car still for sale? — No. It ... already (sell).**
- a. has been sold
- b. had been sold
- c. was sold

- **3. Sometimes mistakes ... (make).**
- a. are made
- b. are being made.
- c. have been made

- **4. For the past few days I (work) in Jack's office, as my own ... (decorate).**
 - a. have been working/ is being decorated
 - b. worked/ decorated
 - c. am worked/ is being decorated.
- **5. While my friend ... (talk) to me, his wallet .. (steal).**
 - a. was being talked/ was being stolen
 - b. was talking/ was stolen
 - c. talked/stole
- **6. Where is your friend Bob? — - I don't know. He ... (not/ seen) recently.**
 - a. hasn't seen
 - b. didn't see
 - c. hasn't been seen

- **7. If someone ... (report) you to the police, you ... (make) to pay a big fine.**
 - a. reports/ will be made
 - b. will report/ will make
 - c. is reported/ will be made

- **8. Professor ... (give) another lecture at the same time next week.**
 - a. will have been given
 - b. will be given
 - c. will give

- **9. Look at the dust in here! It ... (look) as if this room (not/clean) ... for a month.**
 - a. is looked/ hasn't cleaned
 - b. looks/ hasn't been cleaned
 - c. has looked/ isn't cleaned