

Composition- 2nd year- 2nd semester

Second lecture

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Chapter 11: The Passive

In active sentences the subject of the sentence is the actor of the verb or the doer of the action. Ex. **Jad** kicked the ball.

In the above sentence, the subject Jad is the actor of the verb or the one who kicked the ball. The direct object 'the ball' is the receiver of the verb action.

In passive sentences the subject of the sentence is the receiver of the action.

The ball was kicked by Jad.

In the above sentence, the ball is the receiver of the action and is the subject of the sentence. Jad, the actor of the verb, is the object of the preposition *by*.

Forming the passive:

To form a passive sentence from an active sentence:

1. Move the receiver of the action from the direct object position of the sentence to the subject position of the sentence.
2. Insert the verb BE in agreement in number with the new subject and in the appropriate tense.
3. Change the verb to its past participle form.
4. Optionally place the actor of the verb in the object position after the preposition *by*.

The boys ate the pie → *The pie was eaten (by the boys).*

Form of the passive: be + past participle

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present	The boys eat the pie.	The pie is eaten by the boys
Present progressive	The boys are eating the pie	The pie is being eaten by the boys
Present perfect	The boys have eaten the pie	The pie has been eaten by the boys
Past	The boys ate the pie	The pie was eaten by the boys
Past progressive	The boys were eating the pie	The pie was being eaten by the boys
Past perfect	The boys had eaten the pie	The pie had been eaten by the boys
Future	The boys will eat the pie	The pie will be eaten by the boys
Future	The boys are going to eat the pie.	The pie is going to be eaten by the boys
Future perfect	The boys will have eaten the pie	The pie will have been eaten by the boys

Exercise 1. (p.209)

□ EXERCISE 1. Forming the passive. (Chart 11-1)

Directions: Change the active to the passive.

1. Tom *opens* the door. → The door is opened by Tom.
2. Tom *is opening* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
3. Tom *has opened* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
4. Tom *opened* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
5. Tom *was opening* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
6. Tom *had opened* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
7. Tom *will open* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
8. Tom *is going to open* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
9. Tom *will have opened* the door. → The door _____ by Tom.
10. *Is* Tom *opening* the door? → _____ the door _____ by Tom?
11. *Did* Tom *open* the door? → _____ the door _____ by Tom?
12. *Has* Tom *opened* the door? → _____ the door _____ by Tom?

Check your Answers:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. is opened | 2. is being opened |
| 3. has been opened | 4. was opened |
| 5. was being opened | 6. had been opened |

7. will be opened

8. is going to be opened

9. will have been opened

10. Is – being opened

11. Was – opened

12. Has – been opened

Exercise 3. (p. 210)

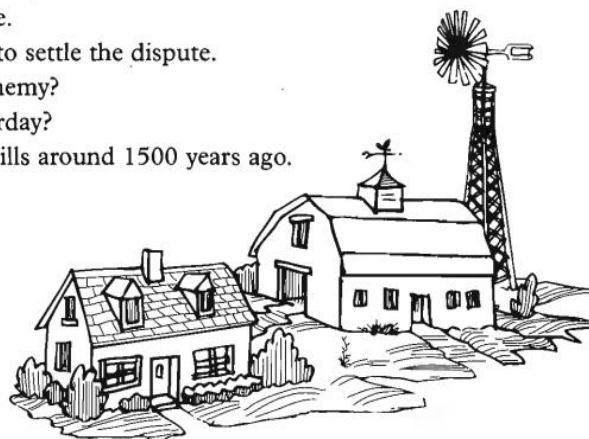
□ EXERCISE 3. Forming the passive. (Chart 11-1)

Directions: Change the active to passive if possible. Some verbs are intransitive and cannot be changed.

1. A strange thing happened yesterday. (*no change*)
2. Jackie scored the winning goal. → *The winning goal was scored by Jackie.*
3. My cat died.
4. I agree with Dr. Ikeda's theory.
5. Dr. Ikeda developed that theory.
6. Timmy dropped the cup.
7. The cup fell to the floor.
8. The assistant manager interviewed me.
9. It rained hard yesterday.
10. A hurricane destroyed the small fishing village.
11. Dinosaurs existed millions of years ago.
12. A large vase stands in the corner of our front hallway.
13. The children seemed happy when they went to the zoo.
14. After class, one of the students always erases the chalkboard.

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15. The solution to my problem appeared to me in a dream.
16. Our plan succeeded at last.
17. Barbara traveled to Uganda last year.
18. Lightning didn't cause the fire.
19. A special committee is going to settle the dispute.
20. Did the army surround the enemy?
21. What happened in class yesterday?
22. The Persians invented windmills around 1500 years ago.



Check your answers:

1. No change.
2. The winning goal was scored by Jackie.
3. No change.
4. No change.
5. The theory was developed by Dr. Ikeda.
6. The cup was dropped by Timmy.
7. No change.
8. I was interviewed by the assistant manager.
9. No change.
10. The small fishing village was destroyed by hurricane.
11. No change.
12. No change.
13. No change.
14. After class, the chalk board is always erased by one of the students.
15. No change.
16. No change.
17. No change.
18. The fire was not caused by the lightning.
19. The dispute is going to be settled by a special committee.
20. Was the enemy surrounded by the army?
21. Windmills were invented by the Persians around 1500 years ago.

Intransitive Verbs

Intransitive verbs (verbs which do not take objects) cannot be used to form passive sentences.

Some examples of common intransitive verbs:

Come, die, go, happen, itch, occur, rain, rise, walk

Examples:

John came to the meeting → *John was come to the meeting (incorrect).

The cat died in the street → *The cat was died in the street (incorrect).

We went to the zoo → *We were gone to the zoo (incorrect).

My back itches → *My back is itched (incorrect).

The incident occurred last week → *The incident was occurred last week (incorrect).

It rained this morning → *It was rained this morning (incorrect).

Gas prices are rising again → *Gas prices are being risen again (incorrect).

John walked to the store by himself → *John was walked to the store by himself (incorrect).

Measure Verbs

There are a couple of measure verbs that also cannot be used in the passive.

This ring costs a lot of money. → *A lot of money was cost by this ring (incorrect).

This fish weighs a lot. → *A lot was weighed by this fish (incorrect).

Modals and phrasal modals

Present modals

Active	The boys can eat the pie
Passive	The pie can be eaten by the boys

Past modals

Active	The boys could have eaten the pie
Passive	The pie could have been eaten by the boys

The passive form: Modal + be + past participle

The past-passive form: Modal + have been + past participle

Exercise 11. (p. 219)

□ EXERCISE 11. Passive modals. (Chart 11-4)

Directions: Complete the sentences with the given words, active or passive.

1. James (*should + tell*) should be told the news as soon as possible.
2. Someone (*should + tell*) should tell James the news immediately.
3. James (*should + tell*) should have been told the news a long time ago.
4. Meat (*must + keep*) _____ in a refrigerator or it will spoil.
5. You (*must + keep*) _____ meat in a refrigerator or it will spoil.
6. We tried, but the window (*couldn't + open*) _____. It was painted shut.
7. I tried, but I (*couldn't + open*) _____ the window.
8. Good news! I (*may + offer*) _____ a job soon. I had an interview at an engineering firm yesterday.
9. Chris has good news. The engineering firm where she had an interview yesterday (*may + offer*) _____ her a job soon.
10. I hope Chris accepts our job offer, but I know she's been having interviews with several companies. She (*may + already + offer**) _____ a job by a competing firm before we made our offer.
11. A competing firm (*may + already + offer**) _____ Chris a job before we made our offer.
12. The class for next semester is too large. It (*ought to + divide*) _____ in half, but there's not enough money in the budget to hire another teacher.
13. Last semester's class was too large. It (*ought to + divide*) _____ in half.
14. These books (*have to + return*) _____ to the library by tomorrow.
15. Polly (*have to + return*) _____ these books by next Friday. If she doesn't return them, she (*will + have to + pay*) _____ a fine to the library.

*A midsentence adverb such as **already** may be placed after the first auxiliary (e.g., *might already have come*) or after the second auxiliary (e.g., *might have already come*).

16. A: Andy, your chores (*had better + finish*) _____
by the time I get home, including taking out the garbage.
B: Don't worry, Mom. I'll do everything you told me to do.
17. A: Andy, you (*had better + finish*) _____ your chores before
Mom gets home.
B: I know. I'll do them in a minute. I'm busy right now.
18. This application (*be supposed to + send*) _____
to the personnel department soon.
19. Ann's birthday was on the 5th, and today is the 8th. Her birthday card (*should + send*)
_____ a week ago. Maybe we'd better give her a
call to wish her a belated happy birthday.
20. A: Ann didn't expect to see her boss at the labor union meeting.
B: She (*must + surprise*) _____ when she saw him.
A: She was.

Check your answers:

1. should be told.
2. should tell.
3. should have been told.
4. must be kept.
5. must keep.
6. could not be opened.
7. could not open.
8. may be offered.
9. may offer.
10. may have already been offered.
11. may already have offered.
12. ought to be divided.
13. ought to have been divided.

14. have to be returned.
15. has to return – will have to pay.
16. had better be finished.
17. had better finish.
18. is supposed to be sent.
19. should have been sent.
20. must have been surprised.