**Passive Voice**

The passive of an active tense is formed by putting the verb to be into the same tense as the active verb and adding the past participle of the active verb.

Active tenses and their passive equivalents:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense/Verb form** | **Active voice** | **Passive voice** |
| Present Simple  Present Continuous  Past Simple  Past Continuous  Present Perfect  Past Perfect  Future (will)  Second Conditional  Third Conditional  Present infinitive  Perfect infinitive  Present participle  Perfect participle | keeps  is keeping  kept  was keeping  has kept  had kept  will keep  would keep  would have kept  to keep  to have kept  keeping  having kept | is kept  is being kept  was kept  was being kept  has been kept  had been kept  will be kept  would be kept  would have been kept  to be kept  to have been kept  being kept  having been kept |

Passive is used:

A. When it is not necessary to mention the doer of the action as it is obvious who it is:

*He was arrested*.

*The rubbish hasn’t been collected*.

*Your hand will be X-rayed.*

*The streets are swept every day*.

B. When we don’t know, or don’t know exactly, or have forgotten who did the action:

*The minister was murdered*.

*My car has been moved*.

*You’ll be met at the station*.

C. When we don’t want to mention the doer of the action:

*I’ve been told that....*

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D. When the subject of the active verb would be *people*, *one*, *you* or *somebody*:

*He is suspected of receiving stolen goods*. (People suspect him of...)

*They are supposed to be living in New York*. (People suppose that they

are living in New York.)

*This sort of advertisement is seen everywhere*. (One sees this sort of

advertisement everywhere.

or

You see this sort of advertisement everywhere.)

E. When we are more interested in the action than the person who does it:

*The house next door has been bought*.

*A new public library is being built*.