**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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense/Verb form** | **Active voice** | **Passive voice** |
| Present SimplePresent ContinuousPast SimplePast ContinuousPresent PerfectPast PerfectFuture (will)Second ConditionalThird ConditionalPresent infinitivePerfect infinitivePresent participlePerfect participle | keepsis keepingkeptwas keepinghas kepthad keptwill keepwould keepwould have keptto keepto have keptkeepinghaving kept | is keptis being keptwas keptwas being kepthas been kepthad been keptwill be keptwould be keptwould have been keptto be keptto have been keptbeing kepthaving 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*.