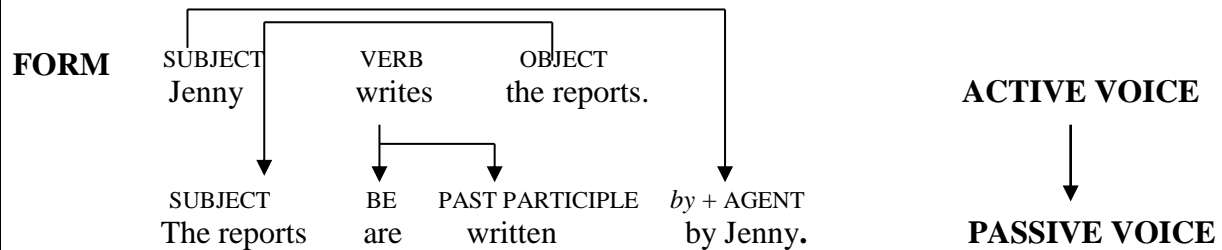


Passive Voice : Overview



USE The subject conjugates the verb, and the agent does the action. In the **active voice**, one word is both subject and agent, such as *restaurant*, *teachers*, and *somebody* in the following sentences.

The restaurant serves breakfast from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Teachers teach English at the school.
Somebody's stolen my bike!

ACTIVE VOICE

The **passive voice** is preferred when the agent is less important than the object (*restaurant* is less important than *breakfast*), the agent is obvious (only *teachers* *teach*), or the agent is unknown (*somebody*). The old object becomes the new subject, and the agent goes at the end of the sentence.

Breakfast is served from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. (in the restaurant).
English is taught at the school (by teachers).
My bike's been stolen (by someone)!

PASSIVE VOICE

The passive puts emphasis on the old object but doesn't change the verb tense. Verb tense and any modals (*will*, *would*, *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*...) stay the same in the passive sentence.

Someone stole my bike!
 there.



My bike was stolen!

Someone will steal your bike if you leave it there.



Your bike will be stolen if you leave it there.

Change these sentences to PASSIVE.

1. The accountant took the money.

2. Mr. Murray taught the class yesterday.

3. The company will deliver the product.

4. She has written many articles for that magazine.

5. They will finish the work tomorrow.

6. Columbus discovered America in 1492.

7. He had signed the contract previously.

8. She broke the plate on purpose.

9. They have found the child.

10. The dog tore his turtleneck sweater!
