

PASSIVE FORM

In English it's often used when we are not interested in WHO did the action, but we want to put more emphasis on the action itself.

Present simple

ACTIVE: I **eat** an apple

PASSIVE: the apple **is** eaten (by me).

PASSIVE FORM: verb TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE

Past simple

ACTIVE: I **ate** an apple.

PASSIVE: The apple **was** eaten (by me)

If we want to specify who does the action (the agent), we use **BY**

OTHER TENSES

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

ACTIVE: they **are building** a new bridge.

PASSIVE: a new bridge **is being** built.

Question: is a new bridge being built?

FUTURE WITH WILL

ACTIVE: They **will** recycle paper.

PASSIVE: Paper **will be** recycled (by them).

Question: Will paper be recycled?

MODAL VERBS

ACTIVE: We **must** do our homework.

PASSIVE: Homework **must be** done.

ACTIVE: we should water the plants.

PASSIVE: plants should be watered.

Question: should plants be watered?

FUTURE WITH *BE GOING TO*

ACTIVE: They' **re going to** switch the lights off.

PASSIVE: The lights **are going to be** switched off.

Question: Are the lights going to be switched off?

PRESENT PERFECT

ACTIVE: He **hasn't fixed** the car yet.

PASSIVE: The car **hasn't been** fixed yet.

Question: Has the car been fixed yet?

Some verbs in English can have two different constructions in the passive, because they can have a direct and an indirect object.

Example: *They sent me flowers*

I was sent flowers (“personal” passive)

Flowers were sent to me.

The “personal” passive is usually the most common form.

Verbs most commonly used with a *personal passive*:

Give, offer, sell, pay, teach, show, send, bring, offer;
ask, tell, order, warn, help, allow, advise..