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# **Passive Voice**

#### Why do we use it? What for?









- Unknown or unimportant author
- Focus on the action



• He took this photo. • This photo was taken by him.

• The person or thing performing the action is not important.



tom hanks **aving private ryan** vard burns matt damon tom sizemore the mission is a man.





#### Too many films have been made about the Second World War.



#### How is the passive formed?

# be + past participle

#### The form of <u>be</u> shows the tense.

# How is the passive formed?

#### **Be + past participle**

sell - sold - sold / build - built - built

- Original paintings are sold for lots of money.
- Those pyramids were built around 400 AD.



# The agent

# If you want to name those who perform (ed) the action we use a by-phrase.

"Sunflowers" was painted by Van Gogh.



# Which tense are they in?

The form of <u>be</u> shows the tense.

• The portrait was drawn by a street artist.

• The portrait is being drawn by a street artist.

• The portrait <u>will be</u> drawn by a street artist.



#### Which one is the most adequate?

The portrait was drawn by a street artist. The portrait is being drawn by a street artist. The portrait will be drawn by a street artist.

# Passive voice tenses ACTIVE > PASSIVE + be + past participle

- □ Present simple -give <u>am / is / are given</u>
- □ Past simple gave was / were given
- Pres. Perfect has/have given has/have been given
- □ Pres. Continuous is/ are giving is / are being given
- □ Future will give *will be given*
- □ Going to be Future is going to give is going to be given
- Modal verbs can give can be given

# Is it passive or active?



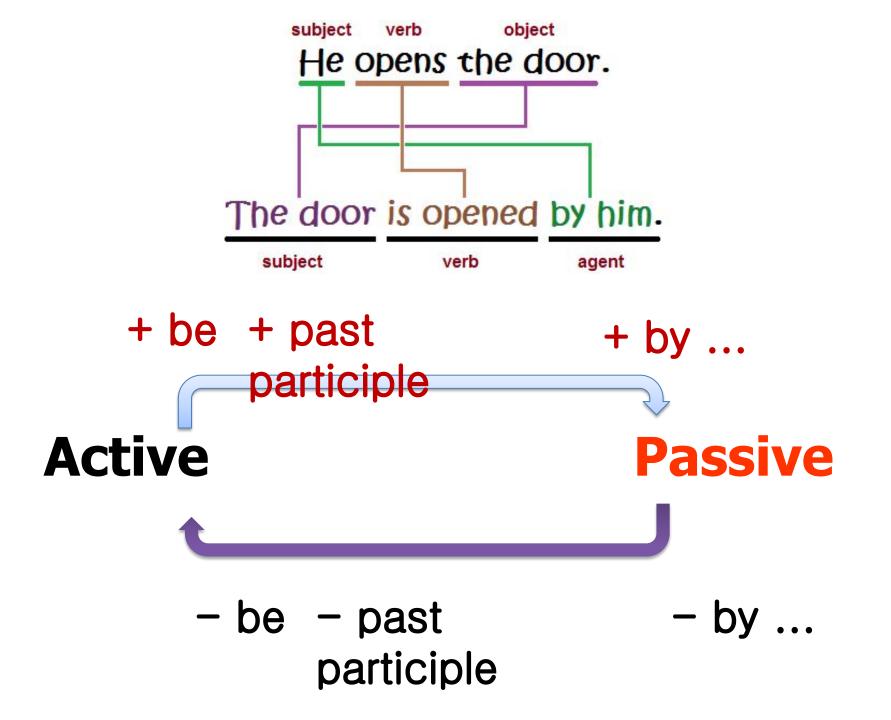
- Speakers would be hidden beneath the wallpaper.
- Portable touch pads would control everything.
- Visitors to his house are surveyed.
- The house is bigger than the average American home.
- Much of Gates house is built underground.

#### **Can I turn it into passive voice?**

- Bill Gates family lives in Medina, Washington.
- Bill Gates organized a party at his private mansion.

A party was organized by Bill Gates at his private mansion

Lake Washington area was locked down by the police.



# Four basic rules

- Ask what or whom to the verb.
- Insert verb to be in the same tense of the main verb
- Put the main verb in the pp

(past participle)

 Auxiliaries don't change (only adapt to singular or plural)

### Two objects = two passives

#### American universities offer young

scientists the best opportunities for



Whom?

The best opportunites for research are offered to young students by American universities. Young students are offered the best opportunites for research by American universities.