**The Passive Voice**

An **active** sentence like **I drank two cups of coffee** has the subject first (the person or thing that does the verb), followed by the verb, and finally the object (the person or thing that the action happens to).

So, in this example, the subject is 'I', the verb is 'drank' and the object is 'two cups of coffee'.

But, we don't always need to make sentences this way. We might want to put the object first, or perhaps we don't want to say who did something. This can happen for lots of reasons (see the explanation further down the page). In this case, we can use a passive, which puts the object first:

* Two cups of coffee were drunk (we can add 'by me' if we want, but it isn't necessary).

**How to make the Passive in English**

We make the passive by putting the verb 'to be' into whatever tense we need and then adding the [**past participle**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/irregular-verbs.html). For regular verbs, we make the past participle by adding 'ed' to the infinitive. So **play** becomes **played**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense** | **Active** | **Passive** |
| [**present simple**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-simple.html) | I **make** a cake. | A cake **is made** (by me). |
| [**present continuous**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-continuous.html) | I **am making** a cake. | A cake **is being made** (by me). |
| [**past simple**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple.html) | I **made** a cake. | A cake **was made** (by me). |
| [**past continuous**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-continuous.html) | I **was making** a cake. | A cake **was being made** (by me). |
| [**present perfect**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-perfect.html) | I **have made** a cake. | A cake **has been made** (by me). |
| [**pres. perf. continuous**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-perfect-continuous.html) | I **have been making** a cake. | A cake **has been being made** (by me). |
| [**past perfect**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-perfect.html) | I **had made** a cake. | A cake **had been made** (by me). |
| [**future simple**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/simple-future.html) | I **will make** a cake. | A cake **will be made** (by me). |
| [**future perfect**](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/future-perfect.html) | I **will have made** a cake. | A cake **will have been made** (by me). |

**Verbs with two objects**

Some verbs that have two objects can make two different active sentences, and so two different passive sentences too:

* Active: He gave me the book / He gave the book to me.

You can choose either of the two objects to be the subject of the passive sentence.

* Passive: I was given the book (by him)/ The book was given to me (by him).

Other verbs like this are: ask, offer, teach, tell, lend, promise, sell, throw.

Exercise

1-He did’t fix the problem

2-Police protect the town

3-John’s mother raised him in a small town  
4- Someone painted the the building last year

5-Alexander Fleming discovered the penicillin in 1928

6-He has driven this beautiful car

Answers

1-The problem wasn’t fixed by me

2-The town is protected by the police

3-John was raised by his mother in a small town

4-the building was painted last year

5-the penicillin was discovred by Alexander fleming

6-This beautiful car has been driven by him .