When do I use passive voice?

In some sentences, passive voice can be perfectly acceptable. You might use it in the following cases:

- **1.** The actor is unknown:
- **2.** The actor is irrelevant:
- **3.** You want to be vague about who is responsible:
- **4.** You are talking about a general truth:
- **5.** You want to emphasize the person or thing acted on.