Active and Passive Voice: Tense Changes

This table shows how verb forms change between active and passive voice for each tense.

Tense	Active Voice (Structure)	Passive Voice (Structure)	Example (Active → Passive)
Simple Present	Subject + V1(s/es)	Subject + am/is/are + V3	He writes a letter \rightarrow A letter is written by him
Present Continuous	Subject + am/is/are + V-ing	Subject + am/is/are being + V3	He is writing a letter \rightarrow A letter is being written by him
Present Perfect	Subject + has/have + V3	Subject + has/have been + V3	He has written a letter \rightarrow A letter has been written by him
Simple Past	Subject + V2	Subject + was/were + V3	He wrote a letter \rightarrow A letter was written by him
Past Continuous	Subject + was/were + V-ing	Subject + was/were being + V3	He was writing a letter \rightarrow A letter was being written by him
Past Perfect	Subject + had + V3	Subject + had been + V3	He had written a letter → A letter had been written by him
Simple Future	Subject + will + V1	Subject + will be + V3	He will write a letter \rightarrow A letter will be written by him
Future Continuous	Subject + will be + V-ing	X (rarely used)	
Future Perfect	Subject + will have + V3	Subject + will have been + V3	He will have written a letter \rightarrow A letter will have been written by him
Modal Verbs	Subject + can/may/must + V1	Subject + can/may/must + be + V3	He can write a letter → A letter can be written by him

Active and Passive Voice in Journalism – Practice Activities

Activity 1 – Spot the Voice (Warm-up)

Instructions: Read the news headlines below and mark each as **Active (A)** or **Passive (P)**.

	Sentence	Voice	
1. The go	overnment announced new environmental policies.		
2. A new	vaccine was developed by Algerian scientists.		
3. The jo	urnalist interviewed the minister yesterday.		
-	ispects were arrested by the police.		
	ands joined the protest downtown.		
Activit	y 2 – Change the Voice		
Instructi	ons: Rewrite each sentence in the opposite voice.		
1. Re	porters covered the election results.		
→	☐ The election results		by reporters.
	e article was written by a student journalist.		
→	□ A student journalist		the article.
	e editor approved the headline.		
\rightarrow	□ The headline	by the	editor.
4. Th	e breaking news was shared by several media outle	ets.	
→	□ Several media outlets		the
br	eaking news.		
Activit	y 3 – Newsroom Rewrite		
	ons: Decide which voice (active or passive) sounds re, then rewrite.	more prof	fessional or
-	: Someone stole the minister's car last night.		

1.	The journalist revealed the corruption case.
	→□
2.	They published the report this morning.
	→ □
3.	Unknown hackers attacked the website.
	→ □
4.	The local team won the national prize.
	→ □

Activity 4 – Create Your Headline

Instructions: Use your own examples or choose from the prompts below.

Prompts:

- Scientists discover a new solar technology.
- The president opens a media innovation center.
- Volunteers clean up the city after the storm.

Example:

•	Active:	
•	Passive:	

Follow-up Discussion:

Which one feels stronger or more engaging for a headline? Why?