

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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English

(The Passive Form)

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The Passive Form

There are times when we do not want to mention the doer of the action. Maybe we want to avoid the responsibility for identifying the doer, or maybe we do not know who or what did the action, or the object of the sentence is actually the most important part of your utterance.

Active Form

Most English sentences are constructed using the structure (subject + verb + object). This structure creates a sentence in the active voice, where the subject performs the action on the object.

The Passive Form Structure

Passive voice is constructed using the (be verb + past participle) structure. To form a passive sentence, we need to use the **passive tense**.

To transform an active sentence into a passive one, follow these steps:

1. Identify the subject, the verb and the object of the active sentence.
2. Move the object to become the new subject of the sentence.
3. Check the verb tense in the active sentence.
4. Conjugate the verb 'be' to match the tense in the active sentence.
5. Add the **past participle** of the main verb after the verb 'be'.
6. Decide what to do with the subject of the active sentence.

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	Present simple	past simple	Future simple
Active	I make it.	I made it.	I will make it.
Passive	It is made.	It was made.	It will be made.
Negation	It is not made.	It was not made.	It will not be made.
Question	Is it made?	Was it made?	Will it be made?

Examples:

- 1-The patient's progress is monitored every hour.
- 2-She was treated for multiple injuries.
- 3-He was not treated for all symptoms.
- 4-They were admitted to the hospital for treatment.

The Preposition “BY”

In a passive sentence, we need to decide what to do with the subject. In the passive voice, it is not necessary to mention who or what performed the action. However, we can include the subject of the active sentence in the passive sentence using the preposition 'by'.

The Uses of Passive Form

Now let's see where we can use the passive voice.

1-When we do not know who or what is the subject.

Somebody stole my car. → My car was stolen.

2-When it is not important who or what did the action.

Somebody called an ambulance. → An ambulance was called.

3-When it is obvious who or what is the doer of the action.

The waiter brought the menu. → The menu was brought.

4-In newspaper articles and titles, for example in crime reports.

Somebody murdered a man. → A man was murdered.

5-In scientific texts.

Carbon dioxide is produced during the processes of decay of organic materials.