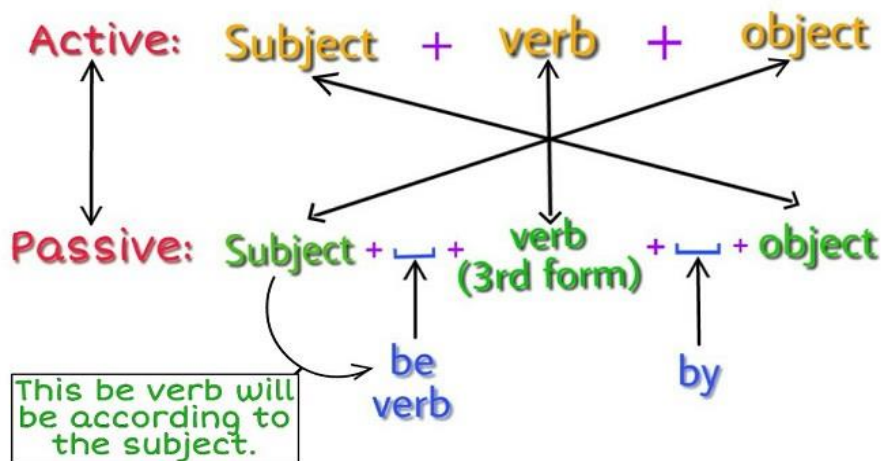**Understanding Passive Sentences**

What is a Passive Sentence?

A passive sentence emphasizes the action or the receiver of the action rather than the doer. In a passive sentence, the object of an active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

Structure of Passive Sentences

- **Subject**   : The receiver of the action.
- **Form of "to be"**   : This can be is, am, are, was, were, be, being, or been, depending on the tense.
- **Past Participle**   : The past participle form of the verb (e.g., done, eaten, written).
- **By Agent (optional)** : The doer of the action, introduced by "by".

Examples

1. **Active:** The chef cooks the meal.

   Passive: The meal is cooked by the chef.

2. **Active:** The teacher explained the lesson.

   Passive: The lesson was explained by the teacher.

3. **Active:** They will complete the project.

   Passive: The project will be completed by them.

In each example, the object of the active sentence (the meal, the lesson, the project) becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

When to Use Passive Sentences

1. **Focus on the Action:** When the action itself is more important than the doer.

> *The window was broken.*

The focus is on the fact that the window is broken, not who broke it.

2. **Unknown Doer:** When the doer of the action is unknown or unimportant.

> *The letter was sent yesterday.*

It doesn't matter who sent it.

3. **Avoiding Blame:** To avoid specifying the doer, often to avoid blame.

> *Mistakes were made.*

This avoids directly blaming someone for the mistakes.

Forming Passive Sentences

To form a passive sentence, follow these steps:

1. **Identify the object** in the active sentence.
   o Example: In "The chef cooks the meal," "the meal" is the object.
2. **Move the object** to the subject position.
   o Example: "The meal" becomes the subject.
3. **Conjugate the verb "to be"** in the same tense as the active verb.
   o Example: "cooks" (present simple) changes to "is" (present simple of "to be").
4. **Add the past participle** of the main verb.
   o Example: The past participle of "cook" is "cooked."
5. **Include the agent** (if necessary), introduced by "by."
   o Example: "by the chef."

Putting it all together: "The meal is cooked by the chef."

Tense Changes in Passive Sentences

The form of "to be" changes according to the tense of the active sentence:

1. **Present Simple:**
   - Active: She writes a letter.
   - Passive: A letter is written by her.

2. **Past Simple:**
   - Active: They built the house.
   - Passive: The house was built by them.

3. **Future Simple:**
   - Active: He will finish the report.
   - Passive: The report will be finished by him.

4. **Present Continuous:**
   - Active: She is reading a book.
   - Passive: A book is being read by her.

5. **Past Continuous:**
   - Active: They were cleaning the room.
   - Passive: The room was being cleaned by them.

6. **Present Perfect:**
   - Active: He has solved the problem.
   - Passive: The problem has been solved by him.

7. **Past Perfect:**
   - Active: She had written the essay.
   - Passive: The essay had been written by her.

8. **Future Perfect:**
   - Active: They will have completed the project.
   - Passive: The project will have been completed by them.

By understanding these patterns, you can form passive sentences in various tenses and use them effectively in your writing and speaking.

Here's a conversation that uses passive sentences:

Alex : Hi Jamie, did you hear about the new art exhibition?

Jamie : Yeah, I heard it was organized by the local art club.

Alex : That's right. The paintings were created by students from the high school.

Jamie : Really? That's impressive! Were any awards given?

Alex : Yes, a few prizes were awarded to the best artworks.

Jamie : I'm glad to hear that. Was the event well attended?

Alex : Yes, it was. The gallery was filled with visitors all day.

Jamie : That's great to know. Was any feedback collected from the visitors?

Alex : Yes, feedback was gathered through a survey at the end of the exhibition.

Jamie : I'm sure the students must have felt proud. Will the exhibition be held again next year?

Alex : Yes, it will be. Plans are already being made for the next event.