

What is Passive Voice in English?

Worksheet

Passive voice emphasizes the action and recipient rather than the doer. Structure: be + past participle (+ by agent). Example: 'The email was sent by Tom,' not 'Tom sent the email.'

Questions

1. Which is in passive voice?
A) The dog chased the cat.
B) The cat was chased by the dog.
C) She wrote the report.
D) They painted the house.
2. Convert to passive: 'John opened the door.'
A) John was opened the door.
B) The door was opened by John.
C) The door opened by John.
D) John opened was the door.
3. What tense is 'The email has been sent'?
A) simple past
B) present perfect passive
C) past perfect
D) simple present
4. Why omit the agent in 'The window was broken'?
A) Wrong grammar.
B) Agent is unknown or unimportant.
C) Must always include agent.
D) Agent is always the subject.
5. Active: The teacher taught the lesson. Convert to passive.
6. Active: The artist painted the mural. Convert to passive.
7. Active: They built the bridge last year. Convert to passive.
8. Define: What is passive voice?
9. Define: Passive structure formula?
10. Define: Example of passive voice?

Answer Key

1. B) The cat was chased by the dog. — 'The cat was chased by the dog' uses be + past participle (was chased).
2. B) The door was opened by John. — Object 'door' becomes subject; add 'was' + past participle 'opened'.
3. B) present perfect passive — 'Has been' = present perfect auxiliary; 'sent' = past participle → present perfect passive.
4. B) Agent is unknown or unimportant. — Omit 'by...' when agent is obvious or irrelevant to focus.
5. Identify: subject = teacher, verb = taught, object = lesson. Passive: The lesson was taught by the teacher. Focus shifts to the lesson (receiver).
6. Subject = artist, verb = painted, object = mural. Passive: The mural was painted by the artist. Omit agent: The mural was painted.
7. Subject = they, verb = built, object = bridge, time = last year. Passive: The bridge was built last year (by them). Agent can be omitted when less important.
8. Passive voice emphasizes the action and receiver, not the doer. Structure: be + past participle (+ by agent).
9. subject (receiver) + be (conjugated) + past participle + by + agent (optional).
10. 'The letter was written by Alice.' Focus is on the letter, not Alice.

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