

The Passive Voice



A sentence can be in two voices in English- active and passive. **Active** is when the focus is on the person who completes an action e.g. **I wash the car**. **Passive** is when the focus is on the object that receives/experiences the action e.g. **the car is washed**.

PART 1	PART 2	PART 3
Object	Verb to be	Past participle
The thing that receives/experiences the action	In any tense and conjugation matches the object	Regular verbs end in ED. Irregular verbs is the third column in the verb table
The car	is	washed

We use the passive voice when we are not interested in the person who completes the action, we're interested in who will receive/experience this action or we don't know who completed the action. You can use the passive voice in any tense.

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Simple	The car was washed	The car is washed	The car will be washed
Continuous	The car was being washed	The car is being washed	NOT NORMALLY USED
Perfect	The car had been washed	The car has been washed	The car will have been washed

We don't normally use the perfect continuous tenses in the passive voice

PRESENT CONDITIONAL: The car would be washed

PAST CONDITIONAL: The car would have been washed

MODAL VERB: The car must be washed

Remember a sentence can be affirmative, negative or a question. The part that changes is the verb TO BE.

