

Passive Voice

Active voice

The subject is the doer of the action.

e.g. He studied Fauna in Bahamas.

Passive voice

The subject is acted upon.

E.g.

He was bothered by the noise.

Use with tenses

Present Simple – the dress is ruined.

Present Perfect- the dress has been ruined.

Present Progressive- the dress is being ruined.

Simple Past- the dress was ruined.

Past Progressive – the dress was being ruined.

When to Use Passive Voice

1. When the subject is unknown-use Stative Form use Stative Form

- form with -be-
- Mark was dismissed early.

2. When the subject is not supposed to be revealed use

- form be ... en, ed
- To be + past participle

3. When the process is emphasized use Dynamic form

- forms with -get-
- Mark got dismissed early

Exercise 1

Read the BBC News Video Transcript and Underline the passive voice

The world's coral reefs are increasingly being threatened, mostly because of human activities.

A group of environment organizations released a report on the issue in February. The "Reefs at Risk Revisited" report used new information and improved satellite mapping system to study the world's coral reefs. For the first time, it also considered the effect of climate change on these threatened sea organisms.

Jane Lubchenco is administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. She says the problem is serious.

JANE LUBCHENCO: "Approximately 75 percent of the world's coral reefs are currently threatened by a combination of local and global pressures".

Lubchenco says the threat to coral reefs will continue to increase unless is done to save them.

JANE LUBCHENCO: "If the current trend persists the projections in this report tell us that 20 years from now, roughly half the reefs globally will experience thermal stress sufficient to induce severe bleaching in most years. Within the next 50 years this percentage is expected to grow more than 95percent."

Nancy Knowlton is with the Smithsonian institution. She says threat to coral reefs could have a major effect on sea life.

Exercise 2

Circle the Passive or Active

Thomas feeds his dog. active/ passive

The family went to the beach. active/ passive

The letter was written by Marshall. active/ passive

The game had been won by the blue team. active/ passive

The problem was solved. active/ passive

The stunt man risked his life. active/ passive

The fire was extinguished. active/ passive

The car was being cleaned by its owner. active/ passive

It gets cold here during the winter. active/ passive

Exercise 3

Create Passive and Active Sentences

Verb

Noun

Solve

problem

Paint

house

Won

blue team

Write

novel

Fix

roof

For example, He fixed the roof.

The roof was fixed by him.