

PASSIVE VOICE

4th ESO

► The **PASSIVE** is formed by using the appropriate tense of the verb **TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE**.

FORM

	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
Present Simple	They serve dinner at 6.00	Dinner is served at 6.00
Present Continuous	They are serving dinner now.	Dinner is being served now.
Past Simple	They served dinner.	Dinner was served.
Past Continuous	They were serving dinner.	Dinner was being served.
Future Simple	They will serve dinner.	Dinner will be served.
Present Perfect	They have served dinner.	Dinner has been served.
Past Perfect	They had served dinner.	Dinner had been served.
Future Perfect	They will have served dinner.	Dinner will have been served.
Modals +be+ p.p.	You must serve dinner.	Dinner must be served.

Note: *GET* is used in colloquial English instead of *BE* to express something happening by accident.
 "He got hurt last Monday." (more usual than: "He was hurt last Monday.")

USE

When the agent (=person who does the action) is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.	The door had been locked. (We don't know who locked it)
When we are interested more in the action than the agent, such as in news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements, etc.	The whole area was evacuated. (news report) Breakfast is served from 6.00 to 10.30. (formal notice)

CHANGING FORM ACTIVE INTO PASSIVE

	SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT	AGENT
ACTIVE	<i>The mayor</i>	<i>opened</i>	<i>the new school.</i>	
PASSIVE	<i>The new school</i>	<i>was opened</i>		<i>by the mayor.</i>

EXERCISES

1. PRESENT SIMPLE

- He opens the door.
- We set the table.
- She pays a lot of money.
- I draw a picture.
- They wear blue shoes.
- They don't help you.
- He doesn't open the book.
- You do not write the letter.
- Does your mum pick you up?
- Does the police officer catch the thief?

2. PAST SIMPLE

- She sang a song.
- Somebody hit me.
- We stopped the bus.
- A thief stole my car.
- They didn't let him go.
- She didn't win the prize.
- They didn't make their beds.
- I did not tell them.

PASSIVE VOICE

4th ESO

Did you tell them?
Did he send the letter?

3. PRESENT PERFECT

Kerrie has paid the bill.
I have eaten a hamburger.
We have cycled five miles.
I have opened the present.
They have not read the book.
You have not sent the parcel.
We have not agreed to this issue.
They have not caught the thieves.
Has she phoned him?
Have they noticed us?

4. FUTURE SIMPLE

Jane will buy a new computer.
Her boyfriend will install it.
Millions of people will visit the museum.
Our boss will sign the contract.
You will not do it.
They will not show the new film.
He won't see Sue.
They will not ask him.
Will the company employ a new worker?
Will the plumber repair the shower?

5. PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Sheila is drinking a cup of tea.
My father is washing the car.
Farmer Joe is milking the cows.
She is taking a picture of him.
I am writing a poem.
We are not playing football.
He is not wearing a tie.
Is she preparing the party?
Are they talking about the meeting?
Is she watering the flowers?

6 PAST CONTINUOUS

We were talking about Francis.
He was playing the guitar.
She was watching a film.
I was repairing their bikes.
They were not eating dinner.
We were not painting the gate.
You were not driving him home.
He was not feeding the dogs.
Was she reading these lines?
Were they carrying bags?

7 PAST PERFECT

I had worn blue shoes.
Joe had cleaned the tables.
We had lost the key.
They had started a fight.

PASSIVE VOICE

4th ESO

I had been reading an article.
I had not closed the window.
They had not bought the paper.
She had not noticed me.
Had she solved the problem?
Had he recorded that song?

8 MODALS

I can answer the question.
She would carry the box.
You should open the window.
We might play cards.
You ought to wash the car.
He must fill in the form.
They need not buy bread.
He could not read the sentence.
Will the teacher test our English?
Could Jenny lock the door?

9. TWO OBJECTS

Rachel will give **you** some advice.
→
I sent **him** a letter.
→
The police officer showed **us** the way.
→
Our neighbour gave **me** a lift.
→
We have asked **him** a favour.
→
She told **me** a lie.
→
They have written **her** a postcard.
→
Kerrie will make **you** a cup of tea.
→
The waiter has not brought **us** the coffee.
→
They did not offer **her** a seat.
→
Rachel will give you **some advice**.
→
I sent him **a letter**.
→
The police officer showed us **the way**.
→
Our neighbour gave me **a lift**.
→
We have asked him **a favour**.
→
She told me **a lie**.
→
They have written her **a postcard**.
→
Kerrie will make you **a cup of tea**.
→