

CLASS X ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ASSIGNMENT -6

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

A Transitive Verb has two voices--the Active and the Passive. Voice is a form of a verb that shows whether the subject does something or something is done to it.

1. THE ACTIVE VOICE

A verb is in the Active Voice when its form shows that the person or thing denoted by the subject does something. It means that the subject acts or is active.

1. The children plucked the mangoes.
2. The mangoes were plucked by the children.

In the first sentence above, the subject (children) is in active. It is the subject who did the action. Hence the verb is said to be in the Active Voice.

2. THE PASSIVE VOICE

A Verb is in the Passive Voice when the person or thing denoted by the Subject is the receiver of the action (that is, when the Subject is Passive or is acted upon).

In the second sentence above, the Subject (mangoes) is the sufferer or receiver of the action; that is, the Subject is not active, but passive. The Verb were plucked is, therefore, said to be in the Passive Voice.

Uses of Passive Voice

1. To eliminate the mention of the agent
2. To give emphasis to the recipient of the action
3. To make an impersonal statement
4. To describe a process
5. To define something
6. To narrate an incident or an event.
7. To describe historical and social incidents
8. To make requests and invitations.
9. To warn, advice, or suggest something.
10. To write a notice.
11. To make announcements.
12. To classify.

Whether to use Active or Passive

One must know which voice to use and when. **Active Voice** should be used when the agent (**doer of action**) **needs to be made prominent** by placing it as a subject, and **Passive** when the person or thing acted upon is to be made prominent: as, 1. The famous dacoit, Ram Singh, killed many villagers. (Here, 'the famous dacoit, Ram Singh', is given prominence). 2. Ten villagers were killed by a dacoit. (Here, the number of villagers killed is emphasized).

When the Active Form has a vague pronoun or noun like somebody, they, people, etc. (as shown above), it is better to use the Passive form and omit the words like by somebody, by them, by people, etc.

RULES FOR CHANGING ACTIVE TO PASSIVE VOICE

Subject and Object

(1) When a verb is changed from Active to Passive Voice, the object in the Active Voice becomes the subject of the verb in the ' Passive Voice and the Subject of the Active Voice becomes the Object of the verb in the Passive Voice.

Akash writes a novel. [Active]

A novel is written by Akash. [Passive]

Note :(1) In the first sentence in the Active Voice, **Akash** is the SUBJECT, **writes** is the VERB in the Active Voice and **novel** is the OBJECT of the transitive Verb drew.

(2) In the second sentence in the Passive Voice, **Novel** is the Subject, **is written** is the Verb in the Passive Voice and **Akash** is the Object (preceded by the preposition by).

(2) Intransitive Verbs are not usually used in the Passive Voice as they do not take objects.

I laughed.

The book fell.

He walks to the park.

(3) Verbs that have two objects (direct and indirect) in the Active Voice may be changed into the Passive Voice by making any of the objects the subject.

1. Malini gave him a gift. [Active]

(i) A gift was given to him by Malini. [Passive]

(ii) He was given a gift by Malini. [Passive]

2. I taught her cooking. [Active]

She was taught cooking by me. [Passive]

Cooking was taught to her by me. [Passive]

(4) When a Transitive Verb of incomplete predication is changed from the Active Voice to the Passive, the Objective Complement becomes a Subjective one.

They chose Mahesh their leader. [Active]
 Mahesh was chosen their leader. [Passive]

CHANGE OF VERB IN THE PASSIVE VOICE

TENSE	ACTIVE VOICE	PASSIVE VOICE
PRESENT		
Simple Present	He plants a tree.	A tree <u>is planted</u> by him.
Present Continuous	He is planting a tree	A tree <u>is being planted</u> by him.
Present perfect	He has planted a tree.	A tree <u>has been planted</u> by him.
Present Perfect Continuous	he has been planting a tree	×
PAST		
Simple Past	He planted a tree.	A tree <u>was planted</u> by him.
Pastt Continuous	He was planting a tree	A tree <u>was being planted</u> by him.
Past perfect	He had planted a tree.	A tree <u>had been planted</u> by him.
Past Perfect Continuous	He had been planting a tree	×
FUTURE		
Simple Future	He will plant a tree.	A tree <u>will be planted</u> by him.
Future Continuous	He will be planting a tree	×
Future perfect	He will have planted a tree.	A tree <u>will have been planted</u> by him.
Future Perfect Continuous	he has been planting a tree	×

To be continued.....

Assignment:

1. Do the **Exercise** given in the **Text book from the Chapter Active and Passive Voice.**
2. Write **Test Paper 2 - Q. No. 5 (b, c, d) only**