**How to make the Passive in English**

We make the passive by putting the verb 'to be' into whatever tense we need and then adding the [past participle](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/irregular-verbs.html). For regular verbs, we make the past participle by adding 'ed' to the infinitive. So **play** becomes **played**. [Click here to learn about irregular verbs](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/irregular-verbs.html).

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| **Tense** | **Active** | **Passive** |
| [present simple](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-simple.html) | I **make** a cake. | A cake **is made** (by me). |
| [present continuous](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-continuous.html) | I **am making** a cake. | A cake **is being made** (by me). |
| [past simple](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple.html) | I **made** a cake. | A cake **was made** (by me). |
| [past continuous](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-continuous.html) | I **was making** a cake. | A cake **was being made** (by me). |
| [present perfect](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-perfect.html) | I **have made** a cake. | A cake **has been made** (by me). |
| [pres. perf. continuous](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/present-perfect-continuous.html) | I **have been making** a cake. | A cake **has been being made** (by me). |
| [past perfect](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-perfect.html) | I **had made** a cake. | A cake **had been made** (by me). |
| [future simple](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/simple-future.html) | I **will make** a cake. | A cake **will be made** (by me). |
| [future perfect](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/future-perfect.html) | I **will have made** a cake. | A cake **will have been made** (by me). |

Practise with [these exercises](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/passive-exercises.html)

**Verbs with two objects**

Some verbs that have two objects can make two different active sentences, and so two different passive sentences too:

**Give**

* Active: He gave me the book / He gave the book to me.

You can choose either of the two objects to be the subject of the passive sentence.

* Passive: I was given the book (by him)/ The book was given to me (by him).

Other verbs like this are: ask, offer, teach, tell, lend, promise, sell, throw.

[Try an exercise about this here](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/passive-verbs-two-objects-exercise-1.html)

**The passive in subordinate clauses**

You can make the passive in a subordinate clause that has a subject and a normal conjugated verb. This is really the same as a normal passive.

* Active: I thought that Mary had kissed John.
* Passive: I thought that John had been kissed by Mary.
* Active: He knew that people had built the church in 1915.
* Passive: He knew that the church had been built in 1915.

You can also make the passive using a passive gerund or a passive infinitive in the same place as a normal gerund or infinitive.

* The child loves being cuddled.
* She would like to be promoted.

[Try an exercise about this here](https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/passive-subordinate-clauses-exercise-1.html)

**Change these active sentences to passive. Choose if you need the agent or not.**

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| 1) The Government is planning a new road near my house.[ . ] |  |

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| 2) My grandfather built this house in 1943.[ . ] |  |

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| 3) Picasso was painting Guernica at that time.[ . ] |  |

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| 4) The cleaner has cleaned the office.[ . ] |  |

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| 5) He had written three books before 1867.[ . ] |  |

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| 6) John will tell you later.[ . ] |  |

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| 7) By this time tomorrow we will have signed the deal.[ . ] |  |

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| 8) Somebody should do the work.[ . ] |  |

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| 9) The traffic might have delayed Jimmy.[ . ] |  |

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| 10) People speak Portuguese in Brazil.[ . ] |  |

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| 11) Everybody loves Mr Brown.[ . ] |  |

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| 12) They are building a new stadium near the station.[ . ] |  |

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| 13) The wolf ate the princess.[ . ] |  |

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| 14) At six o'clock someone was telling a story.[ . ] |  |

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| 15) Somebody has drunk all the milk![ . ] |  |

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| 16) I had cleaned all the windows before the storm.[ . ] |  |

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| 17) A workman will repair the computer tomorrow.[ . ] |  |

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| 18) By next year the students will have studied the passive.[ . ] |  |

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| 19) James might cook dinner.[ . ] |  |

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| 20) Somebody must have taken my wallet.[ . ] |