



University of Tikrit
College of Arts
English Department

Subject

"Oxford Practice Grammar"

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Unit five

The Passive

5-1 Active and Passive:

To transfer the active sentence to the passive voice we should know these points:

- 1- Know the tense of the sentence.
- 2- Determine the S., V., and O. of the sentence.
- 3- Put the object at the beginning of the sentence, the object may be one word or a group of words.



	Tense	Active	Passive
1.	Simple present	S.+ v(s) + c Smith takes the toy.	Is\am\are + p.p The toy is taken (by Smith)
2.	Present continuous	S.+is\am\are + v. ing Smith is taking the toy	Is\am\are + being + p.p The toy is being taken (by Smith)
3.	Present perfect	Has\have + p.p Smith has taken the toy	Has\have + been + p.p The toy has been taken
4.	Simple past	S.+ v. ed Smith took the toy	Was\were + p.p The toy was taken
5.	Past continuous	Was\were + v. ing Smith was taking the toy	Was\were + being + p.p The toy was being taken
6.	Past perfect	Had + p.p Smith had taken the toy	Had + been + p.p The toy had been taken
7.			
8.	Simple future	Will\shall + v. Smith will take the toy	Will + be+ p.p The toy will be taken

5-2 Passives with modals, infinitives, and gerund:

5-2-1 Modal Passives:

	Tense	Passive
1.	Simple modal	(can, may, will, etc.) + be + P.P
2.	Past modal tense	(Could, might, would) + be + P.P
3.	Modal Perfect	Modal + have been + p.p
4.	Modal continuous	Modal + be being + p.p
5.		

(can, may, will, etc.) + be + P.P → simple form

(Could, might, would) + be + P.P → Past tense

5-2-2 Passives infinitives and gerunds:

To be + P.P + c → passive infinitive

➤ She's excited to have been chosen.

Being + P.P + c → passive gerund



- I didn't like being asked about my private life.

Having been + P.P + c  perfect passive gerund

- He didn't mention having been promoted (ترقية) when we talked.
- We put not before passive infinitives and passive gerunds.

5-3 Passive Verbs:

5-3-1 Verbs with and without objects

We create passive form transitive verbs (have an object) not from intransitive verbs (don't have an object):

- We arrived early (S. + V. + adv.) no object here.
- Joe and Smith are clever. (S. + V. + adj.)

We create passive from verbs that describe actions, not state:

- My sister has two sons (not changed to passive)

Some verbs describe the state but are usually used in the passive:

- Her parents were married in 1983 and she was born two years later.

We create passive form transitive phrasal verbs, not intransitive phrasal verbs :

- She locked her house up (active) -- her house was locked up. (passive)

- My cold went away (intransitive phrasal verb) – (not: my cold was gone away)

5-3-2 Verbs with two objects:

We create two passive structures when we use verbs that can have an indirect object and a direct object such as (award, give, hand, lend, pass, sell, send, show, teach, throw, and write,)

- They awarded Maria first prize.
 - Maria was awarded first prize.
 - The first prize was awarded to Maria.
 - The passive structure we choose depends on which person or things we want to talk about.
- No one taught us English
 - English wasn't taught there.
 - We weren't taught English.

In the passive, we put the indirect object as the subject or after the preposition to, not after the verb:

- He handed Suzan a note
 - Suzan was handed a note.
 - A note was handed to Suzan.

When a verb with two objects is used in only one active structure, we can only create one passive. If we can put the indirect object after the active verb, we can use it as a subject of the passive.

- The judge fined him 250\$.
 - He was fined 250\$.

If we can't put the indirect object after the active verb, we can't use it as a subject of the passive (such as explain, demonstration, describe, mention, present, report, or suggest)

- Then we explained our solution to him.
 - Our solutions were explained to him.

We can use a direct object as a subject of a passive, but not another noun that classifies it.

- They elected Clinton president twice.
 - Clinton was elected president twice.

- Many people considered John Nash a genius.
 - John Nash was considered a genius.