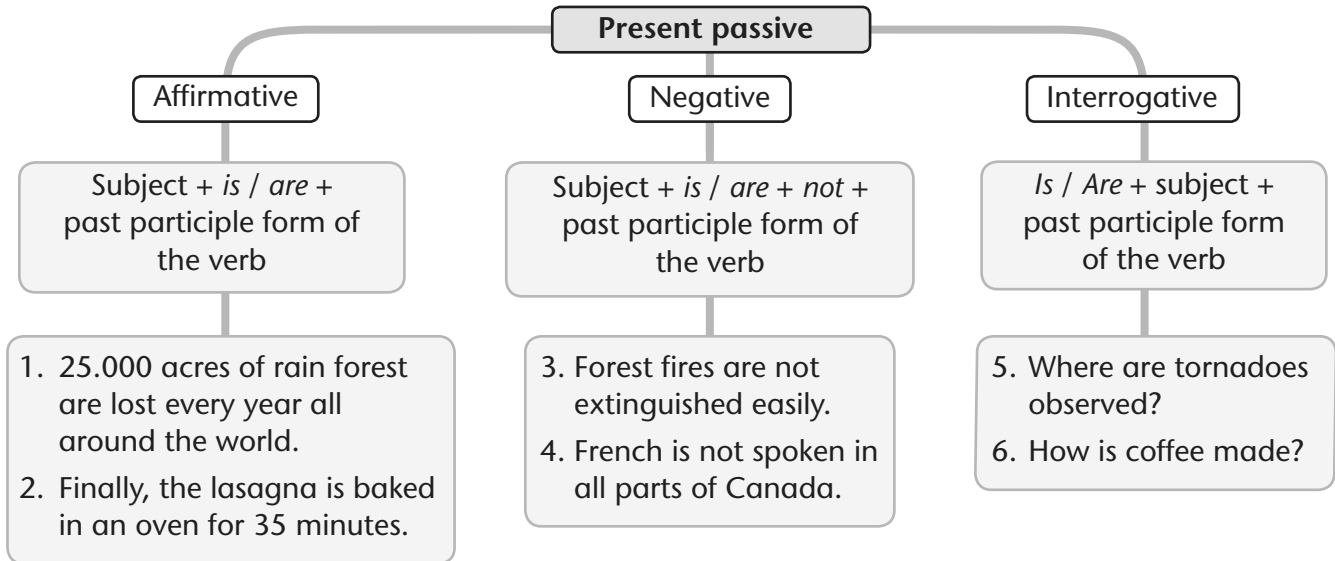


# Passive Voice

## Learn!



## The passive voice

We use the passive voice when we describe an action and don't mention the doer, when we describe a process, or when the doer of the action is unknown, obvious or unimportant.

## Work it out!

### 1 Match the following uses of the passive voice with the example sentences in the Learn! section.

We use the passive voice:

- when the doer of an action is unknown, obvious or unimportant. 1, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
- when we describe a process. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## Use!

### 1 Write the verbs from the box in their past participle form.

boil \_\_\_\_\_  
chop \_\_\_\_\_  
cut down \_\_\_\_\_  
make \_\_\_\_\_

pass \_\_\_\_\_  
pour \_\_\_\_\_  
remove \_\_\_\_\_  
take \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Complete the following paragraph using the verbs from Activity 1.**

**Making Paper**

Paper \_\_\_\_\_ by processing the wood and its fiber. First the trees \_\_\_\_\_ .

Then the trunks \_\_\_\_\_ to the paper factory. Here the bark \_\_\_\_\_ and the trunks \_\_\_\_\_ into small pieces. The small pieces \_\_\_\_\_ with water and few chemicals until they turn into a slushy, mushy pulp. This pulp is then \_\_\_\_\_ onto a fine wire mesh where the pulp stays on the top and the water from it drains out. After that, the pulp \_\_\_\_\_ through hot rollers many times until it is completely dry and paper rolls come out.

## The passive voice

The passive voice is generally used in scientific topics to describe actions or facts without necessarily mentioning the agent or cause. When the agent is mentioned, we use the word *by* before it.

Passive-voice sentences are formed with the verb  
to *be* + the past participle of the main verb.

*Bile is stored and concentrated there.*

*The gall bladder is connected to the liver by the hepatic duct.*

### Task 1: Complete the sentences with the verbs in parentheses in the correct form.

1. The air we breathe \_\_\_\_\_ (store) in the lungs when we inhale.
2. The oxygen in the blood \_\_\_\_\_ (deliver) to all the body cells.
3. Twenty-four different diseases, including lung cancer and cardiovascular problems, \_\_\_\_\_ (link) to smoking.

### Task 2: Everyone in the house has a task that he or she normally does. Describe what everyone does, changing each active voice sentence into a passive voice sentence.

1. My bother Thomas washes the dishes.  
The dishes \_\_\_\_\_ by Thomas.
2. My sister Karen feeds the dogs.  
The dogs \_\_\_\_\_ by Karen.
3. My mom prepares the food.  
The food \_\_\_\_\_ by my mom.
4. My father pays the bills.  
The bills \_\_\_\_\_ by my father.
5. The gardener waters the plants every day.  
Every day the plants \_\_\_\_\_ by the gardener.
6. My uncle drives us to school.  
We \_\_\_\_\_ to school by my uncle.

## Passive voice with modal verbs

The use of passive voice is recommended in two situations:

- when the action is more important than the doer.
- when we don't know who performs the action.

Passive voice can be useful in scientific or technical reports, where the doer is not really important but the process or explanation we are developing are more relevant.

You can use the following structure with modal verbs:

Modal verb	The verb <i>be</i>	Past participle of action verb
Might	be	<i>Regular examples:</i>
Must		finished
Should		washed
Could		opened
Would		<i>Irregular examples:</i>
Can		caught
Can		spent
Will		done

### Task 1: Rewrite the sentences using the passive voice and a modal verb.

1. Children (should / motivate) to do sports instead of playing video games.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Social networks (should / prohibit) at schools.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In the future, most books (will / read) on computers.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Our environment (must / protect).

\_\_\_\_\_

### Task 2: Change the following sentences to passive voice.

1. You must put out all smoking materials.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. You must fasten the seat belt.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. They will demonstrate safety precautions.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. You should read the safety instructions.

\_\_\_\_\_