

# ESSENTIAL ENGLISH GRAMMAR

(Non Major Elective (18UNM 21))

## PASSIVE VOICE

Dr. B. Lakshmikantham

AP / English

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)  
Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli.

Kezia writes a letter. (Active)

A letter is written by Kezia. (Passive)

In the first sentence the form of the verb shows that the person denoted by the subject **does** something. In the second sentence the verb shows something **is done** by the subject.

# Transformation from the Active voice to the Passive voice

When a verb is changed from the active into the passive voice, the object of the active voice becomes the subject and vice versa.

<b>Subject</b>		<b>Object</b>
I	changed into	me
we	changed into	us
you	changed into	you
he	changed into	him
she	changed into	her
it	changed into	It
they	changed into	them

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Active Voice</b>	<b>Passive Voice</b>
<b>Present</b>	give/gives	is/are given
<b>Present Continuous</b>	am/is/are giving	am/is/are being given
<b>Present perfect</b>	has/have given	has/have been given

Past	gave	was/were given
Past continuous	was/were giving	was/were being given
Past perfect	had given	had been given
Future	will give	will be given
Future perfect	will have given	will have been given

<p>Modal verbs</p>	<p>can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, ought to/ give</p>	<p>can be given, may be given, might be given, shall be given, ought to be given etc.</p>
<p>Imperative</p>	<p>Order, request</p>	<p>Let + be + V3 form or requested + to +V1</p>

**By** is used with the doer of action when it helps to complete sense in Passive Voice.



Tense	Passive Voice
Present Continuous	Am / is / are + being + p.p.

She is doing the homework      AV

The homework is being done  
by her      PV

Tense	Passive Voice
Present Perfect	Has / have + been + p.p.

She has done the homework      AV

The homework has been done  
by her      PV

Tense	Passive Voice
Simple Past	Was / were + p.p.

She did the homework

AV

The homework was done  
by her

PV

Tense	Passive Voice
Past Continuous	Was / were + being + p.p.

She was doing the homework      AV

The homework was being done  
by her      PV

Tense	Passive Voice
Past Perfect	had+ been + p.p.

She had done the homework *AV*

The homework had been done  
by her *PV*

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Passive Voice</b>
Simple Future	Modals + be + p.p.

She will do the homework AV

The homework will be done  
by her PV

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Passive Voice</b>
Future Perfect	Modals + have + been + p.p.

She will have done the  
homework

*AV*

The homework will have been  
done by her

*PV*

# Exercises:

1. We are going to watch a movie tonight.
2. A skilled operator can carry out many operations on a lathe.
3. India defeated Pakistan in 1971 war.
4. The committee is considering action on the bill.
5. Oxford has published a new book on Etymology.