

Grammar: PASSIVES

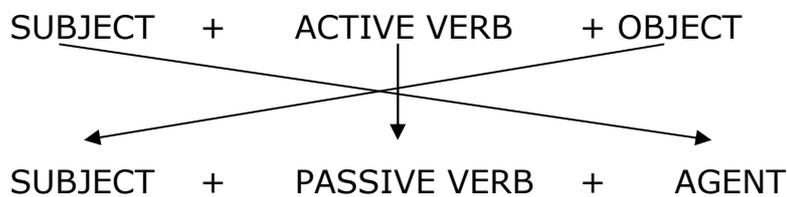
As in Italian, the passive voice is formed by the different verb tenses followed by the past participle of the main verb. You should therefore remember that the past participle is different with:

- Regular verbs: +ED
- Irregular verbs: third column of the paradigm

As in Italian, only transitive verbs (those with an object) can have a passive form:

- Columbus discovered America
- America was discovered by Columbus

As in Italian, the following changes are made:



e.g.	Francesco	+	mangia	+	un gelato
	Un gelato	+	è mangiato	+	da Francesco
	Francis	+	eats	+	an ice cream
	An ice cream	+	is eaten	+	by Francis

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. We choose a passive structure when we focus on the action itself rather than who performs the action.
The new machine has been installed
2. We can use *by* to mention who performs the action.
All her clothes are designed by Lanvin
3. We often use the passive to describe a process, system or procedure.
Before a product is launched focus groups are set up and a name is chosen
4. We often use the passive in impersonal constructions beginning with *it*. These constructions are frequently found in reports and the minutes of meetings.
It was agreed that the budget should be increased

Practice the passive always remembering that:

ACTIVE



PASSIVE

Present Simple

John buys a new car every year.

A new car is bought by John every year.

Past Simple

John bought a new car yesterday.

A new car was bought by John yesterday.

Future

John will buy a new car tomorrow.
John is going to buy a new car.

A new car will be bought by John tomorrow.
A new car is going to be bought by John.

Conditional

John would buy a new car.

A new car would be bought by John.

Present Perfect

John has bought a new car.

A new car has been bought by John.

Past Perfect

John had bought a new car.

A new car had been bought by John.

Present Continuous

John is buying a new car now.

A new car is being bought by John now.

Past Continuous

John was buying a new car.

A new car was being bought by John.