

THE PASSIVE VOICE I

- Esta es la estructura de un oración activa con un objeto:
(This is the structure of an active sentence with one object)

Sujeto + Verbo + Objeto Directo (Subject + Verb + Direct Object)

"My friends see a picture"
subject verb object

"You found a coin"
Subject verb object

"My mother will write a book"
Subject verb object

"My aunt has read a magazine"
Subject verb object

- Estas oraciones pueden tener una estructura pasiva, y para ello se realizan una serie de cambios:

(These sentences have a passive counterpart, and we have to make some changes)

- Introducimos el verbo **to be + participio del verbo principal**.
(We introduce the verb **to be + past participle**)
- El verbo to be se conjuga en el mismo tiempo verbal que el verbo de la oración activa.
(Verb to be will appear in the same tense as the verb in the active sentence)
- El objeto de la oración activa pasa a ser sujeto en la oración pasiva.
(The object of the active sentence will be the subject of the passive sentence)
- El sujeto de la oración activa pasa a ser complemento agente de la oración pasiva, precediendo por la preposición **by**.
(The subject of the active sentence will be the object of the passive sentence, after the preposition **by**)

- Este sería el esquema de cambios:

(This would be the outline with the changes)

Activa: Sujeto + Verbo + Objeto

Pasiva: Sujeto + Be + Past Participle + (By Agente)

"My friends see a picture"
subject verb object

"A picture is seen by my friends"

subject verb agent
“You found a coin”
subject verb object

“A coin was found by you”
subject verb agent

“My mother will write a book”
subject verb object

“A book will be written by my mother”
subject verb object

“My aunt has read a magazine”
subject verb object

“A magazine has been read by my aunt”
subject verb object

- Es muy frecuente omitir el agente cuando está claro o se desconoce.
(It is normal to omit the agent if it is very clear, or if we don't know who he is)

“The thief was arrested (by the police)”

“The window was broken”

- Pero el agente debe aparecer si tiene importancia:
(But the agent must appear if it is important for the meaning of the sentences)

“Romeo and Juliet was written **by Shakespeare**”

- El uso de la pasiva es mucho más común en inglés que en español. Las pasivas aparecen sobre todo en los periódicos y noticias de radio y en todas las ocasiones en que ponemos énfasis en la acción o en el objeto, o no conocemos el sujeto.

(Passives are much more frequent in English than in Spanish. They appear in newspapers and news on the radio, and in all those situations in which we emphasize the action or the object, or when we do not know the subject)

- Recuerda: los pronombres personales con las funciones de sujeto y objeto:
(You must remember the personal pronouns for both subject and object functions)

Pronombres Sujeto

I
You
He
She
It
We
You
They

Pronombres Objeto

me
you
him
her
it
us
you
them

- Repasa los tiempos verbales. Cualquier tiempo verbal puede aparecer en pasiva. (You should review the tense forms of the verbal system. Any tense can be in passive)

- Las oraciones pasivas pueden ser tanto afirmativas como negativas. Si son negativas, se añade **not** al primer verbo auxiliar que aparezca. Si no hay verbo auxiliar, se niega el verbo “to be” de la pasiva.

(Passive sentences can be either positive or negative. If they are negative, we add **not** after the first auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary, we add **not** after passive “to be”)

“The wallet was found on the ground”

“The wallet wasn't found on the ground”

“The letter has been written by my friends”

“The letter hasn't been written by my friends”

“The present will be bought soon”

“The present won't be bought soon”

- Las oraciones pasivas pueden ser interrogativas. En al caso, el verbo auxiliar aparece antes del sujeto. Si no hay auxiliar, es el verbo “to be” el que pasa delante del sujeto:

(Passive sentences can be interrogative. The auxiliary verb goes before the subject. If there is no auxiliary, passive “be” goes before the subject)

“The wallet was found on the ground”

“Was the wallet found on the ground?”

“Where was the wallet found?”

“The present will be bought soon”

“Will the present be bought soon?”

“When will the present be bought?”

- Las oraciones pasivas pueden aparecer con verbos modales (can, could, should, must, etc.). El verbo “to be” de pasiva irá después de los modales:

(passive sentences can have modal verbs, such as “can”, “could”, “must”, etc. Passive “be” will follow them)

“The wallet could be found on the ground”

“The wallet couldn't be found on the ground”

“Could the wallet be found on the ground?”

“The letter may have been written by my friends”

“The letter may not have been written by my friends”

“When may the letter have been written by my friends?”

THE PASSIVE VOICE II

- Esta es la estructura de una oración activa con dos objetos:
(This is the structure of an active sentence with two objects)

Sujeto + Verbo + Objeto Indirecto + Objeto Directo
(subject + Verbo + Indirect Object + Direct Object)

ó

Sujeto + Verbo + Objeto Directo + to + Objeto Indirecto
(subject + verb + direct object + to + Indirect object)

“My friends gave my mother a picture”

“My friends will give a picture to my mother”

- Estas oraciones pueden tener una estructura pasiva, y para ello se realiza un serie de cambios:
(These sentences have a passive counterpart, and we have to make some changes)

- a) El verbo se pasa a voz pasiva.
(The verb is turned into the passive voice)
- b) El sujeto activo pasa a ser complemento agente.
(The active subject will be the passive agent)
- c) – El objeto indirecto de la oración activa pasa a ser sujeto en la oración pasiva.
(The indirect object of the active sentence will be the subject of the passive sentence)

“My mother was given a picture by my friends”
subject direct object

- o - El objeto directo de la oración activa también puede convertirse en el sujeto de la pasiva. En ese caso, el objeto indirecto tiene que ir precedido por la preposición “to”. Esta opción, aunque posible, es mucho menos frecuente que la anterior.

(The direct object of the active sentence can also be the subject of the passive. Then, the indirect object will be introduced by the preposition “to”. In any case, this option is less common than the preceding one)

“A picture was given to my mother by my friends”
 subject indirect object

Tiempo verbal de la frase activa	Frase activa	Frase pasiva
present	I write a letter	The letter is written
present continuos	I'm writing a letter	The letter is being written
past	I wrote a letter	The letter was written
past continuos	I was writing a letter	The letter was being written
present perfect	I've written a letter	The letter has been written
past perfect	I had written a letter	The letter had been written
future	I will write a letter	The letter will be written
future II	I'm going to write a letter	The letter is going to be written
modals	I have to write a letter	The letter has to be written
modals	I should write a letter	The letter should be written
modals	I must write a letter	The letter must be written