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## ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

A Transitive Verb has two voices

- (1) the Active,
- (2) the Passive

Compare the following:

1. The hunter shot the lion.
2. The lion was shot by the hunter.

You will see that both the sentences mean the same thing. But in the first sentence, the Subject (the hunter) is the doer of the action (shot).

In the second sentence, the Subject (the lion) is the sufferer or receiver of the action (was shot).

**A Verb is said to be in the Active Voice when the person or thing denoted by the Subject acts or is active.**

[So, the Verb shot is Active.]

**A Verb is said to be in the Passive Voice when the person or thing denoted by the Subject does not act, but suffers the action done by something or by someone. [So, the Verb was shot is Passive.]**

An Intransitive Verb is not used in the Passive Voice, unless it takes a Cognate Object in the Active; as,

Active : He has fought a good fight.  
Passive : A good fight has been fought by him.

The Passive Voice is used when the Subject of the Active Voice is unknown, unimportant or vague (eg., people, they, a person, somebody). He was killed in the last War.

The ship was sunk hardly a kilometre off shore. Food was distributed free of charge. His house was burgled last night  
When will the bell be rung ?

The following table will help you to know how the Passive is formed in different tenses:

Simple Present: am/is/are+past participle.

Simple Past : was/were/+past participle.

Present Perfect: have/has been+past participle.

Past Perfect: had been+past participle.

Present Continuous : am/is/are being+past participle.

Past continuous: was/were being+past participle