

# PASSIVE VOICE



Actor or Acted Upon

## Active Voice

The subject is the doer of the action

E.g. He studied fauna in Bahamas.

## Passive Voice

The subject is acted upon

E.g. He was bothered by the noise.

## Use with Tenses

**Present Simple-** The dress is ruined.

**Present Perfect-** The dress has been ruined.

**Present Progressive-** The dress is being ruined.

**Simple Past-** The dress was ruined.

**Past Progressive-** The dress was being ruined.

- When the subject is unknown

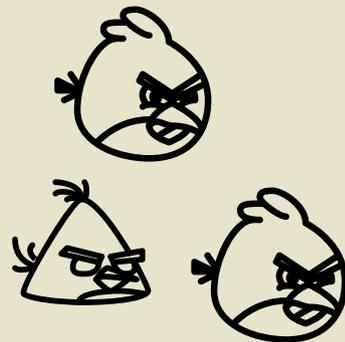
- When the subject is not supposed to be revealed

- When the process is emphasized

USE

USE

WHEN TO USE



PASSIVE VOICE



My brother was attacked by angry birds.

STATIC FORM

FORM

DYNAMIC FORM

- Forms with -be-
- Mark was dismissed early.

- be ... en, ed
- to be + past participle

- Forms with -get-
- Mark got dismissed early



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## **Watch/Read the BBC News Video Transcript and Underline the Passive Voice**

The world's coral reefs are increasingly being threatened, mostly because of human activities.

A group of environmental organizations released a report on the issue in February. The "Reefs at Risk Revisited" report used new information and improved satellite mapping systems to study the world's coral reefs. For the first time, it also considered the effect of climate change on these threatened sea organisms.

Jane Lubchenco is administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. She says the problem is serious.

JANE LUBCHENCO: "Approximately 75 percent of the world's coral reefs are currently threatened by a combination of local and global pressures."

Lubchenco says the threat to coral reefs will continue to increase unless something is done to save them.

JANE LUBCHENCO: "If the current trend persists, the projections in this report tell us that 20 years from now, roughly half the reefs globally will experience thermal stress sufficient to induce severe bleaching in most years. Within the next 50 years this percentage is expected to grow more than 95 percent."

Nancy Knowlton is with the Smithsonian Institution. She says the threat to coral reefs could have a major effect on sea life.

<http://www.manythings.org/b/e/5000/>

## Circle the Correct Version and Turn the Active into Passive Voice

- 1) Thomas feeds his dog. active / passive
- 2) The dog is fed by Thomas. active / passive
- 3) The family went to the beach. active / passive
- 4) The letter was written by Marshall. active / passive
- 5) The game had been won by the blue team. active / passive
- 6) The problem was solved. active / passive
- 7) The stunt man risked his life. active / passive
- 8) The fire was extinguished. active / passive
- 9) The car was being cleaned by its owner. active / passive
- 10) It gets cold here during the winter. active / passive

**Watch/Read the BBC News Video Transcript and Underline the Passive Voice**

Sentences 1; 7; 8; 10

**Circle the Correct Version and Turn the Active into Passive Voice**

1. Active
2. Passive
3. Active
4. Passive
5. Passive
6. Passive
7. Active
8. Passive
9. Passive
10. Active