

Passive Voice

Why it is used

- To emphasize the action rather than the doer.
- To express general beliefs.
- To describe processes.
- To introduce evidence, opinion or argument in formal writing, e.g. reports, formal letters, requests.
- To put particular information at the beginning or the end of the sentence.

It is commonly used in:

- Newspapers
- Formal notices
- Scientific or technical writing

How it is formed: Auxiliary **be** + Past Participle of the main verb

ACTIVE		PASSIVE
They build houses of stone.	Simple Present	Houses are built of stone.
They are building the house.	Present Continuous	The house is being built .
They built the house last year.	Simple Past	The house was built last year.
They were building the house.	Past Continuous	The house was being built .
They have built many houses.	Present Perfect	Many houses have been built .
They had built a house.	Past Perfect	A house had been built .
They will build a house of stone.	Future	A house of stone will be built .
They should build a house.	Modal Verb	A house should be built .
They are going to build a house.	Infinitive	A house is going to be built .

> The sentence in the Passive Voice can have an agent (**by...**) if it is known or relevant.