

THEME 7 FACTS ABOUT TURKEY GRAMMAR

THE PASSIVE

We use “the passive”

- when the person who carries out the action is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.

Stonehenge was built in 3000 BC. (we don't know who built it)

My lunch is delivered every day. (it is not important who delivers it)

- when the action itself is more important than the person who carries it out, as in news headlines, articles, formal notices, advertisements, etc.

Göbekli Tepe is believed to be the oldest temple in the world.

- to make statements more formal and polite.

Camera flash is not allowed in the museum.

Changing from active to passive

- The **object** of the active sentence becomes the **subject** of the passive sentence.
- The active verb remains in the same tense, but changes into a passive form.
- The **subject** of the active sentence becomes the **agent**, and is either introduced with the preposition *by* or omitted.

	subject	verb	object
ACTIVE	Tilda	prepared	dinner
PASSIVE	Dinner	was prepared	by Tilda

We form “the passive” with the verb to be in the appropriate tense and the past participle of the main verb.

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Present Simple	They clean the office every day.	The office is cleaned every day.
Present Continuous	They are cleaning the office now	The office is being cleaned now.
Past Simple	They cleaned the office yesterday.	The office was cleaned yesterday.
Past Continuous	They were cleaning the office at 9 yesterday evening	The office was being cleaned at 9 yesterday evening.
Present Perfect	They have already cleaned the office.	The office has already been cleaned .
Past Perfect	They had cleaned the office.	The office had been cleaned .
Future Simple	They will clean the office tomorrow.	The office will be cleaned.
Modals	They can clean the office.	The house can be cleaned .

NOTES

*** Only transitive verbs (verbs that take an object) can be changed into passive.

Tom leaves home early every morning. (intransitive verb; no passive form)

*** We use *by* + agent to say who or what carries out an action. We use *with* +instrument/material/ingredient to say what the agent used.

The sauce was made by a young chef. (It was made with garlic and olive oil.)

*** The agent can be omitted when the subject is they, he, someone/somebody, people, one, etc.

Somebody has stolen my bike. (My bike has been stolen.)

*** The agent is not omitted when it is a specific or important person.

The concert hall was opened by Jennifer Lopez.

*** With verbs which take two objects such as give, write, buy, tell, bring, send, etc, we can make two different passive sentences.

She gave him a beautiful cap. (active)

He was given a beautiful cap. (passive, more usual)

A beautiful cap was given to her. (passive, less usual)

*** In passive questions with who, whom, which we do not omit by.

Who wrote this poem? Who was this poem written by?

EXERCISES A. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct passive form.

1. The beef **was roasted** (roast) in the oven with garlic and olive oil an hour ago.
2. I'm making the cake and the chicken _____ (prepare) by Fiona now.
3. The new swimming pool _____ (open) by the mayor next Sunday.
4. The guests are about to come but the cake _____ (not/deliver) yet.
5. My grandma's flat _____ (burgle) last night.
6. Rome is one of the most important tourist destinations in the world. It _____ (visit) by millions of people every year.

EXERCISES B. Rewrite the sentences in the passive form.

1. You must take these tablets after meals. **These tablets must be taken after meals.**
2. The teacher sent Elisa out of the classroom.
3. They have already served the main course.
4. The readers had voted Adele the best singer of the year.
5. They are going to knock down that building.
6. Who answered the phone?

EXERCISES C. Rewrite the following sentences into the active.

1. All the main courses are served with rice or chips. **They serve all the main courses with rice or chips.**
2. The lecture will be presented by Dr Jack Cage.
3. The new menu hasn't been approved by the owner.
4. Chemicals are used to make sugar white.
5. The ice climbing competition had been held here.

EXERCISE D. Fill in the gaps using "by" or "with".

1. This soup was made **with** asparagus.
2. The cookies will be baked _____ the kids.
3. The recipe was created _____ my grandfather.
4. All the food in the restaurant is eaten _____ chopsticks.
5. The beef was cut _____ a special knife.
6. The sauce is being made _____ garlic and chilli peppers.