

THE PASSIVE VOICE

► ESTRUCTURA:

ACTIVE	<u>The boy</u>	<u>broke</u>	<u>the window</u>
	S	V	O
PASSIVE	<u>The window</u>	<u>was broken</u>	<u>(by the boy)</u>
	S	V	Agent

1. El sujeto de la frase activa pasa a complemento agente en pasiva
2. El objeto de la frase activa pasa a ser sujeto en pasiva
3. El verbo se forma con "to be" en el tiempo del verbo de la frase activa seguido del participio pasado de ese mismo verbo : **TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE**

- Para que podamos pasar una frase activa a voz pasiva es necesario que dicha frase tenga algún objeto directo o indirecto, es decir, que tenga un **verbo transitivo**.

- La mayoría de las veces no es necesario poner el **complemento agente**, y nunca se pone si es general (they, people, we, everyone...) Si lo ponemos irá precedido de la preposición **"by"**, excepto cuando es un país, en cuyo caso sería **"in"** ("Renault cars are made in France").

► TIEMPOS VERBALES:

TENSE	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Present Simple	build/ builds	are built /is built
Present Continuous	is /are building	is/ are being built
Present Perfect	have/has built	have/has been built
Past Simple	built	was/were built
Past Continuous	was/were building	was/were being built
Past Perfect	had built	had been built
Future "will"	will built	will be built
Future "going to"	is/ are going to build	is/are going to be built
Conditional	would build	would be built
"Have to"	have/has to build	have/hast to be built
Modal verbs	can build must build	can be built must be built
Perfect Modals	may have built	may have been built

► ALGUNOS EJEMPLOS:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
China consumes a lot of rice	A lot of rice is consumed in China
Helen is eating a sandwich	A sandwich is being eaten by Helen
They have drunk some wine	Some wine has been drunk (by them)
Sheila wrote a letter	A letter was written (by Sheila)
He was painting a portrait	A portrait was being painted (by him)
I had finished the work	The work had been finished (by me)
We will paint the wall	The wall will be painted (by us)
I'm going to prepare dinner	Dinner is going to be prepared (by me)
You have to decorate the room	The room has to be decorated (by you)
You must finish this job today	This job must be finished today
Someone may have stolen his car	His car may have been stolen

► USOS DE LA VOZ PASIVA:

- En oraciones impersonales, muy frecuentes en el estilo periodístico y científico:
New discoveries have been made to cure cancer.
Students are asked not to smoke in the school.

- Cuando el agente de la acción es obvio o desconocido:
My bike has been stolen. (Han robado mi bicicleta)
the window was broken. (Rompieron la ventana)
The criminal will be arrested (by the police).

- En español no usamos tanto la pasiva como en inglés. Solemos emplear otras construcciones en su lugar:

- Voz pasivo-refleja con "se":

*A lot of coffe **is drunk** in Spain. (Se bebe mucho café en España)*
*Wine **is made** from grapes. (El vino se hace con uvas)*

- Tercera persona del plural.

*Second hand books **are sold** there. (Ahí venden libros de segunda mano)*

MAYORES DIFICULTADES DE LA PASIVA PARA ESTUDIANTES ESPAÑOLES:

1► PASIVA CON VERBOS DE JUICIO, PENSAMIENTO U OPINIÓN (IMPERSONAL PASSIVE)

- Cuando nos encontramos un sujeto general (*they, people,...*) con un verbo de juicio, pensamiento u opinión (**think, believe, say, suppose, consider, understand, know, expect**) seguido de una frase subordinada con "that", hay dos pasivas posibles:

People	say	that she is an interesting writer.
S	V	O

1ª **It is said that she is an interesting writer.** (Se dice que...)

→ **It + Passive Verb + THAT-clause**

2ª **She is said to be an interesting writer.** (Se dice que...)

→ **Subject + Passive Verb + TO- infinitive clause.**

(Colocamos el sujeto de la frase subordinada como sujeto de la frase pasiva, quitamos "that" y ponemos el verbo en infinitivo)

- Son **construcciones impersonales** (se dice, se comenta, etc.) muy típicas de la pasiva en inglés, pero difíciles de traducir para los hispanoparlantes:

If is reported (Se informa) **If is supposed** (Se supone)

If is said (Se dice) **If is considered** (Se considera)

If is known (Se sabe) **If is expected** (Se espera)

EXAMPLE: ACTIVE: They think (that) he has a lot of money

1ª **It is thought that** he has a lot of money

2ª **He is thought to** have a lot of money

It	is	thought (that...)	Se piensa que...
	was		Se pensaba/pensó que...
	will be		Se pensará que...
	may be		Se puede pensar que...

ACTIVITY 1: TRANSFORM INTO PASSIVE

1. People think that teenagers are irresponsible.
2. They said that the film was disappointing.
3. Everybody considers that teachers work little.

ACTIVITY 2: TRANSLATE

1. Se sabe que los políticos descuidan la educación en nuestro país.
2. Se piensa que la deforestación afecta a todo el planeta.

MORE ACTIVITIES IN <http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/passive>

2► VERBOS DITRANSITIVOS (*give, lend, offer, ask, send, sell, tell...*).

Cuando nos encontramos un verbo ditransitivo (con 2 objetos: objeto directo y objeto indirecto), casi siempre se pasa a sujeto el objeto indirecto.

I gave Peter some money	-----	Peter was given some money
She will lend me her bike	-----	I will be lent her bike
The teacher asked me a question	-----	I was asked a question
They have offered him a new job	-----	He has been offered a new job
What did you send me ?	-----	What was I sent?

3► VERBOS SEGUIDOS DE PREPOSICIÓN

Cuando tenemos un verbo seguido de preposición (*listen to, look after, ...*), al hacer la transformación a pasiva la preposición permanece junto al verbo:

- Most teenagers **listen to** that radio station

That radio station **is listened to** by most teenagers

(Esa emisora es escuchada por la mayoría de los adolescentes)

- We **are looking after** our neighbour's cat while they are away.

Our neighbour's cat **is being looked after** (by us)...

4► PASIVA EN ESTRUCTURA INTERROGATIVA

Cuando nos encontramos una frase en interrogativa, la mejor forma de no equivocarnos es pasarla primero a afirmativa, buscando el orden SVO, luego se hace la pasiva y una vez que tengamos la pasiva, se pasa de nuevo a interrogativa:

Does he eat vegetables?

-He eats **vegetables** ----- Vegetables are eaten (by him)

Are vegetables eaten (by him)?

Did she finish the homework?

-She finished **the project** ----- The project was finished (by her)

Was the project finished (by her)?