

Topic 2: Active and Passive Voice (Detailed)

Chapter 1: Advanced Grammar · Topic 2

Key Concept

To convert active to passive, the object becomes the subject, the verb changes to 'be + past participle,' and the original subject becomes optional (with 'by').

Different tenses form passive voice differently: present simple uses 'is/am/are + past participle,' while past simple uses 'was/were + past participle.'

Not all sentences can be converted to passive voice - only sentences with a direct object (transitive verbs) can be made passive.

Choosing between active and passive voice depends on what we want to emphasise - the doer of the action or the action itself.

Quick Revision Notes

- Active to passive: object becomes subject.
- Verb becomes 'be + past participle'.
- Original subject becomes optional (with 'by').
- Present simple passive: is/am/are + past participle.
- Past simple passive: was/were + past participle.
- Only transitive verbs (with objects) can be passive.
- Choice depends on what to emphasise.
- Emphasise doer (active) or action (passive).

Practice Questions

- 1 Convert 'The teacher checks the homework' to passive.
- 2 Convert a past tense sentence to passive voice.
- 3 Identify why a sentence cannot be made passive.
- 4 Write a sentence emphasising the doer (active).
- 5 Write a sentence emphasising the action (passive).
- 6 Practice converting sentences across different tenses.