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**Institute of Urban Techniques Management Module: English**

**1. Passive Voice: Present Simple Tense**

English has two voices: active and passive. The active voice is used when the subject of the sentence does the action. In the example, A is the subject and B is the object.

*For example*: My mom sings that song.

A B

The passive voice is used when we focus on the object of the sentence. In the example, B becomes the subject.

*For example*: That song **is** sung by my mom.

B A

When it is important to know who does the action, we use by. The noun that follows by is called the “agent.” My mom was the subject in the active sentence, but it becomes the agent in the passive sentence.

Sometimes, when the agent is unknown, or unimportant to the meaning of the sentence, we do not use by.

*For example*: This sweater is made in China.

We form the passive with be + past participle (3rd form of the verb).

In the present simple, the passive is: am / is / are + past participle (3rd form of the verb).

Remember!

1. The past participle always stays the same. Only the form of be changes.
2. The subject and verb must always agree in number.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Subject | Verb | Object |
| Active | The teachers | help | the new student. |
| Passive | The new student | is helped | by the teacher. |
|  |  |  |  |
| Active | The teachers | help | the new students. |
| Passive | The new students | are helped | by the teachers. |

**Past Participles (3rd form of the verb)**

English verbs have three main forms:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Infinitive | 1. Base Form | 2. Simple Past | 3. Past Participle (3rd form) |
| to cook | cook | cooked | cooked |
| to do | do | did | done |
| to eat | eat | ate | eaten |

Past participles for regular verbs are also the same as the past tense (add –ed).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base Form | Simple Past | Past Participle (3rd form) | Passive Sentence |
| solve | solved | solved | The problem is solved. |
| carry | carried | carried | The heavy boxes are carried by Moby. |

Many past participles for irregular verbs are the same as the past tense.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base Form | Simple Past | Past Participle (3rd form) | Passive Sentence |
| make | made | made | The pizza is made by Moby. |
| cut put | cut put | cut put | The sandwich is cut in two pieces. Apples are put in the bowl. |
| build | built | built | The houses are built very fast. |
| buy catch | bought caught | bought caught | The food is bought by my mom. The thieves are caught by the police. |

There are many irregular verbs with irregular past participles, and those have to be memorized. It is easiest to remember them in groups that follow the same spelling pattern.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Base Form | Simple Past | Past Participle (3rd form) |
| Past Participle ends in *-en* | | |
| bite | bit | bitten |
| eat | ate | eaten |
| forget | forgot | forgotten |
| get | got | gotten |
| give | gave | given |
| ride | rode | ridden |
| speak | spoke | spoken |
| take | took | taken |
| write | wrote | written |
| Past Participle vowel changes from *a* to *u* | | |
| drink | drank | drunk |
| sing | sang | sung |
| swim | swam | swum |
| Past Participle changes from *ew* to *own* | | |
| blow | blew | blown |
| fly | flew | flown |
| grow | grew | grown |
| know | knew | known |
| throw | threw | thrown |
| Past Participle changes from *ore* to *orn* | | |
| wear | wore | worn |
| Past Simple and Past Participles are very different | | |
| do | did | done |
| see | saw | seen |
| go | went | gone |