

VERBS: VOICES IN ENGLISH

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE.

*The same meaning obtains for a sentence in the active and the passive but the question lies in the **FOCUS** the speaker has between the subject or the object. He may desire to highlight the **SUBJECT** or the **OBJECT** in his/her utterance executing the action of the verb.

* *The voice rendition only obtains with sentences containing the **transitive verbs- verbs that take an object**.

*** In the **Active sentence**, the **subject** determines the concord of conjugation. **Mary scores the point** =Subject+Verb+Complement.

****In the **passive sentence**, the **object** becomes the subject and the subject becomes the agent introduced by the preposition **BY**.
The point is scored by Mary. NB: The agent is optional in a sentence. The point is scored.

***** **The passive verb is BE+PAST PARTICIPLE.** **BE** takes the tense of the main verb in the active sentence, followed by the past participle of the main verb.

Let's discover the passive rendition according to tenses with the TRANSITIVE verb - EAT

Active	Tense	passive rendition
I eat/you eat/he eats	present tense	I am/you are/he is/+ eaten
I am /your are/he is +eating	present continuous	I am/you are/he is/+being + eaten
I have/you have/he has+ eaten	present perfect	I have/you have/he has/+been+eaten
I ate/you ate/he ate	past simple	I was/you were/he was+eaten
I was/you were/he was/ eating	past continuous	I was being/you were being/he was being eaten
I /you/ he had+eaten	past perfect	I /you/he had+been+eaten
I/you/he had been eating	past perfect continuous	I/you/he had been being eaten(rare)
I/you/he had been eating	past perfect continuous	I/you/he had been being eaten(rare)
I /you/he will eat	future simple	I/you/he will be eaten
I/you/he will be eating	future continuous	I/you/he will be being eaten
I/you/he will have eaten	future perfect	I/you/he will have been eaten
I/you/he will have been eating	future perfect continuous	I/you/he will have been being eaten(rare)
To eat	infinitive	to be eaten.

Also note that 'need' and 'get' can be used to express the passive as in MODAL+HAVE+OBJECT+PAST PARTICIPLE,

MODAL+GET+OBJECT+PAST PARTICIPLE: /I must have my lesson drawn/They must have their house cleaned, I should get this work done./I will get the task accomplished/I must have the field ploughed today/