

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE TENSES CHART

SIMPLE PRESENT and SIMPLE PAST

The active object becomes the passive subject.

am/is/are + past participle

was/were + past participle

Active: Simple Present

The movie fascinates me.

The movie bores Jack.

The movie surprises them.

Passive: Simple Present

I am fascinated by the movie.

Jack is bored by the movie.

They are surprised by the movie.

Active: Simple Past

The movie bored me.

The movie fascinated Jack.

The movie surprised them.

Passive: Simple Past

I was bored by the movie.

Jack was fascinated by the movie.

They were surprised by the movie.

PRESENT and PAST CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE)

Passive form:

am/is/are + being + past participle

was/were + being + past participle

Active: Present Continuous

I am helping Shannon.

June is helping Su and Ling.

Passive: Present Continuous

Shannon is being helped by me.

Su and Ling are being helped by June.

Active: Past Continuous

I was cleaning the bathroom.

Passive: Past Continuous

They were cleaning the bedroom.
Susan was cleaning the kitchen and patio.

The bathroom was being cleaned by me.
The bedroom was being cleaned by them.
The kitchen and patio were being cleaned by Susan.

PRESENT PERFECT, PAST PERFECT and FUTURE PERFECT

Passive form:
have/has been + past participle
had been + past participle

Active: Present Perfect

I have mailed the gift.
Jack has mailed the gifts.

Passive: Present Perfect

The gift has been mailed by me.
The gifts have been mailed by Jack.

Active: Past Perfect

Steven Spielberg had directed the movie.
Penny Marshall had directed those movies.

Passive: Past Perfect

The movie had been directed by Steven Spielberg.
The movies had been directed by Penny Marshall.

Active: Future Perfect

John will have finished the project next month.
They will have finished the projects before then.

Passive: Future Perfect

The project will have been finished by next month.
The projects will have been finished before then.

FUTURE TENSES

Passive forms: will + be + past participle
is/are going to be + past participle

Active: Future with WILL

I will mail the gift.
Jack will mail the gifts.

Passive: Future with WILL

The gift will be mailed by me.
The gifts will be mailed by Jack.

Active: Future with GOING TO

I am going to make the cake.
Sue is going to make two cakes.

Passive: Future with GOING TO

The cake is going to be made by me.
Two cakes are going to be made by Sue.

PRESENT / FUTURE MODALS

The passive form follows this pattern:

modal + be + past participle

Active: WILL / WON'T (WILL NOT)

Sharon will invite Tom to the party.
Sharon won't invite Jeff to the party.
(Sharon will not invite Jeff to the party.)

Passive: WILL / WON'T (WILL NOT)

Tom will be invited to the party by Sharon.
Jeff won't be invited to the party by Sharon.
(Jeff will not be invited to the party by Sharon.)

Active: CAN / CAN'T (CAN NOT)

Mai can foretell the future.
Terry can't foretell the future.
(Terry can not foretell the future.)

Passive: CAN / CAN'T (CAN NOT)

The future can be foretold by Mai.
The future can't be foretold by Terry.
(The future can not be foretold by Terry.)

Active: MAY / MAY NOT

Her company may give Katya a new office.
The lazy students may not do the homework.

MIGHT / MIGHT NOT

Her company might give Katya a new office.
The lazy students might not do the homework.

Passive: MAY / MAY NOT

Katya may be given a new office by her company.
The homework may not be done by the lazy students.

MIGHT / MIGHT NOT

Katya might be given a new office by her company.
The homework might not be done by the lazy students.

Active: SHOULD / SHOULDN'T

Students should memorize English verbs.
Children shouldn't smoke cigarettes.

Passive: SHOULD / SHOULDN'T

English verbs should be memorized by students.
Cigarettes shouldn't be smoked by children.

Active: OUGHT TO

Students ought to learn English verbs.
(negative *ought to* is rarely used)

Passive: OUGHT TO

English verbs ought to be memorized by students.

Active: HAD BETTER / HAD BETTER NOT

Students had better practice English every day.
Children had better not drink whiskey.

Passive: HAD BETTER / HAD BETTER NOT

English had better be practiced every day by students.
Whiskey had better not be drunk by children.

Active: MUST / MUST NOT

Tourists must apply for a passport to travel abroad.
Customers must not use that door.

Passive: MUST / MUST NOT

A passport to travel abroad must be applied for.
That door must not be used by customers.

Active: HAS TO / HAVE TO

She has to practice English every day.
Sara and Miho have to wash the dishes every day.
DOESN'T HAVE TO/ DON'T HAVE TO
Maria doesn't have to clean her bedroom every day.
The children don't have to clean their bedrooms every

Passive: HAS TO / HAVE TO

English has to be practiced every day.
The dishes have to be washed by them every day.
DOESN'T HAVE TO/ DON'T HAVE TO
Her bedroom doesn't have to be cleaned every day.

day.

Their bedrooms don't have to be cleaned every day.

Active: BE SUPPOSED TO

I am supposed to type the composition.
I am not supposed to copy the stories in the book.
Janet is supposed to clean the living room.
She isn't supposed to eat candy and gum.
They are supposed to make dinner for the family.
They aren't supposed to make dessert.

Passive: BE SUPPOSED TO

The composition is supposed to be typed by me.
The stories in the book are not supposed to be copied.
The living room is supposed to be cleaned by Janet.
Candy and gum aren't supposed to be eaten by her.
Dinner for the family is supposed to be made by them.
Dessert isn't supposed to be made by them.

PAST MODALS

The past passive form follows this pattern:
modal + have been + past participle

Active: SHOULD HAVE / SHOULDN'T HAVE

The students should have learned the verbs.
The children shouldn't have broken the window.

Passive: SHOULD HAVE / SHOULDN'T HAVE

The verbs should have been learned by the students.
The window shouldn't have been broken by the children.

Active: OUGHT TO

Students ought to have learned the verbs.
(negative *ought to* is rarely used)

Passive: OUGHT TO

The verbs ought to have been learned by the students.

Active: BE SUPPOSED TO (past time)

I was supposed to type the composition.
I wasn't supposed to copy the story in the book.
Janet was supposed to clean the living room.
She wasn't supposed to eat candy and gum.
Frank and Jane were supposed to make dinner.
They weren't supposed to make dessert.

Passive: BE SUPPOSED TO (past time)

The composition was supposed to be typed by me.
The story in the book wasn't supposed to be copied.
The living room was supposed to be cleaned by Janet.
Candy and gum weren't supposed to be eaten by her.
Dinner was supposed to be made by them.
Dessert wasn't supposed to be made by them.

Active: MAY / MAY NOT

That firm may have offered Katya a new job.
The students may not have written the paper.

MIGHT / MIGHT NOT

That firm might have offered Katya a new job.
The students might not have written the paper.

Passive: MAY / MAY NOT

Katya may have been offered a new job by that firm.
The paper may not have been written by the students.

MIGHT / MIGHT NOT

Katya might have been offered a new job by that firm.
The paper might not have been written by the students.

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