

Use the Passive:

1- when you want to avoid mentioning the subject/agent. In this case, don't use the by-phrase.

Example: The window was broken yesterday.

2- when you don't know who performed the action. In this case, using the by-phrase is impossible.

Example: My purse was stolen.

3- when it is not important to mention who performed the action. In this case, don't use the by-phrase.

Example: Corn is grown in the Bekaa.

4- when you want to emphasize who performed the action. In this case, using the by-phrase is necessary.

Example: The painting was stolen by masked thieves.

**The Active/
Passive
Voice**

Active voice: The subject is doing the verb’s action.

Example: **The man** ate five hamburgers.

Passive voice: The Object is the receiver of the verb’s action.

Example: **Five hamburgers** were eaten by the man.

Forming the Passive sentence:

Active	Sub- ject	Transitive Verb*	Object
Passive	Object	Verb	By + Sub- ject

*Verbs that can have objects

Forming the Passive Verb:

Simple Present: This school provides better education.	Be in the simple present + past participle of “provide”	Better education is provided by this school.
Simple Past: Sally kept the baby alone in the room.	Be in the simple past + past participle of “keep”	The baby was kept alone in the room by Sally.
Present Continuous: The police are investigating the theft.	Be in the simple present + being + past participle of “investigate”	The theft is being investigat- ed by the police.
Past Continuous: They were doing everything to find the killer.	Be in the simple past + being + past participle of “do”	Everything was being done to find the killer.
Present Perfect: The chairperson has warned some students.	Have in the simple present + been + past participle of “warn”	Some students have been warned by the chairperson.
Past Perfect: Someone had broke the lock.	Have in the simple past + been + past participle of “break”	The lock had been broken .
Simple Future: They will question her tomorrow.	Will + be + past participle of “question”	She will be questioned tomorrow.
Modal + Verb: They might buy a car next week.	Might + be + past participle of “buy”	A car might be bought next week.