Passive Voice

CEFR B1 · The passive across tenses and with two objects

WS1 Passive Across Tenses · WS2 Active ↔ Passive · WS3 Two Objects & When to Use the Passive · WS4 Editing & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Passive Across Tenses

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Change 'be', Keep the Participle

The passive exists in every tense. Only the form of **be** changes to show the tense; the past participle stays the same. Learn the pattern for each tense you know.

Tense	Passive form	Example
Present simple	is/are + pp	It **is made** here.
Present continuous	is/are being + pp	It **is being made** now.
Past simple	was/were + pp	It **was made** in 1990.
Present perfect	has/have been + pp	It **has been made** already.
Future (will)	will be + pp	It **will be made** soon.
Modal	modal + be + pp	It **must be made** today.

Part A – Complete in the Tense Shown

1. (present continuous) The road _____ (repair) at the moment.
2. (present perfect) The results _____ (announce) already.
3. (future) The winners _____ (choose) tomorrow.
4. (past simple) The palace _____ (build) in 1700.
5. (modal: can) This _____ (do) easily.

Part B – Name the Tense

#	Passive sentence	Tense
1	The bridge is being painted.	
2	The letters have been sent.	
3	The house will be sold.	
4	The car was stolen last night.	

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Active ↔ Passive

Name: _____ *Date:* _____ *Level: B1 (CEFR)*

Reference: Three Steps to Make a Passive

To change active to passive: (1) the **object** becomes the subject; (2) change the verb to **be + past participle** in the same tense; (3) add **by + the old subject** only if needed.

Active	Passive
Someone **has taken** my bag.	My bag **has been taken**.
They **are building** a school.	A school **is being built**.
The company **will launch** it.	It **will be launched** (by the company).
People **should recycle** plastic.	Plastic **should be recycled**.

Part A – Make it Passive

1. They have cancelled the match. → _____
2. Someone is cleaning the pool. → _____
3. The council will build a park. → _____
4. You must finish the report today. → _____

Part B – Make it Active

Change to active. Invent a subject if none is given.

1. The window was broken by the storm. → _____
2. The email has been sent. → _____
3. The song is being recorded. → _____

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Two Objects & When to Use the Passive

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Verbs with Two Objects; Why Use the Passive

Some verbs have two objects (*give, send, offer, tell, show, pay*). Either object can become the passive subject, but starting with the **person** is more common. We use the passive when the doer is unknown, obvious, unimportant, or when we want to focus on the action or result.

Active	Passive (person) — common	Passive (thing)
They gave **me a prize**.	**I was given** a prize.	A prize was given to me.
She sent **him a letter**.	**He was sent** a letter.	A letter was sent to him.
Why passive?	doer unknown/obvious/unimportant	focus on action or result

Part A – Two Passives

Write both passive forms (person-subject and thing-subject).

1. They offered Anna the job. → _____
2. Someone showed us the plans. → _____

Part B – Why the Passive?

State why the passive is a good choice here.

#	Passive sentence	Reason for the passive
1	My car was broken into last night.	
2	English is spoken all over the world.	
3	The results will be published next week.	
4	Mistakes were made.	

Part C – Active or Passive: Which Is Better?

Choose the more natural version and say why.

1. a) Someone stole my bike. b) My bike was stolen. _____
2. a) The Romans built this wall. b) This wall was built by the Romans. _____

Score: ____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Editing & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Part A – Intensive Edit

This text has **eight** errors (wrong tense of be, participle form, missing *been/being*, or by-agent). Find and correct them.

> The new library was opened last month, and already thousands of books have been borrow. At the moment, a special exhibition is being organise. It will be visit by schools from all over the region. The building was designed from a famous architect, and the project were funded by the city. Many events are held there every week, and free classes are offer to everyone. Last week, prizes were give to the best young readers. The library has became very popular.

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Part B – Guided Writing

Write 120–150 words describing a process or a place (how something is produced, or how a place is run). You must include: (1) the passive in at least **three different tenses**; (2) at least one **by-agent**; (3) at least one **modal passive** (can/must/should + be + pp).

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

8	
9	

Tenses: _____ / 3 by-agent: _____ / 1 Modal: _____ / 1 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B1 Level, Passive Voice

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 is being repaired · 2 have been announced · 3 will be chosen · 4 was built · 5 can be done

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 present continuous · 2 present perfect · 3 future (will) · 4 past simple

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 The match has been cancelled. · 2 The pool is being cleaned. · 3 A park will be built (by the council). · 4 The report must be finished today.

Worksheet 2 – Part B (sample)

1 The storm broke the window. · 2 Someone has sent the email. / She has sent the email. · 3 They are recording the song.

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 Anna was offered the job. / The job was offered to Anna. · 2 We were shown the plans. / The plans were shown to us.

Worksheet 3 – Part B (model)

1 doer unknown · 2 doer is "people in general" (obvious/unimportant) · 3 focus on the results; doer unimportant · 4 doer deliberately hidden (avoids blame).

Worksheet 3 – Part C (model)

1 b — the doer is unknown, so the passive is more natural; "someone" is vague. · 2 a — the doer (the Romans) is the interesting part, so active foregrounds it; b is fine if "the wall" is the topic.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 have been borrowed · 2 is being organised · 3 will be visited · 4 designed by a famous architect · 5 the project was funded · 6 free classes are offered · 7 prizes were given · 8 has become very popular

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Range of tenses	Passive in three+ tenses, correct	0–4
by-agent	Used where the doer matters	0–4
Modal passive	modal + be + participle correct	0–3
Task & length	120–150 words; coherent	0–3