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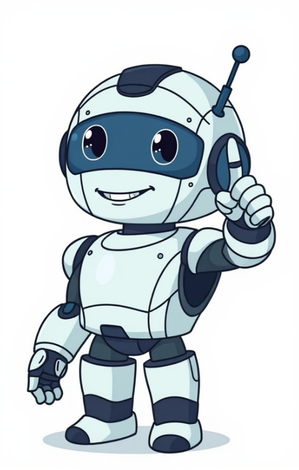

Click here for our complete programme to perfect your English grammar.Do you know how to make and use the passive? Watch the video here or read the explanation and do the exercises below. Download this explanation in PDF here. See all my exercises about the passive here. An active sentence like I drank two cups of coffee has the subject first (the person or thing that does the verb), followed by the verb, and finally the object (the person or thing that the action happens to). So, in this example, the subject is 'I', the verb is 'drank' and the object is 'two cups of coffee'. But, we don't always need to make sentences this way. We might want to put the object first, or perhaps we don't want to say who did something. This can happen for lots of reasons (see the explanation further down the page). In this case, we can use a passive, which puts the object first: Two cups of coffee were drunk (we can add 'by me' if we want, but it isn't necessary). How to make the Passive in English We make the passive by putting the verb 'to be' into whatever tense we need and then adding the past participle. For regular verbs, we make the past participle by adding 'ed' to the infinitive. So play becomes played. Click here to learn about irregular verbs. Practise with these exercises Verbs with two objects Some verbs that have two objects can make two different active sentences, and so two different passive sentences too: Give Active: He gave me the book / He gave the book to me. You can choose either of the two objects to be the subject of the passive sentence. Passive: I was given the book (by him)/ The book was given to me (by him). Other verbs like this are: ask, offer, teach, tell, lend, promise, sell, throw. Try an exercise about this here. 1: When we want to change the focus of the sentence The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci. (We are more interested in the painting than the artist in this sentence) 2: When who or what causes the action is unknown or unimportant or obvious or 'people in general' He was arrested (obvious agent, the police). My bike has been stolen (unknown agent). The road is being repaired (unimportant agent). The form can be obtained from the post office (people in general). 3: In factual or scientific writing The chemical is placed in a test tube and the data entered into the computer. 4: In formal writing instead of using someone/ people/ they (these can be used in speaking or informal writing) The brochure will be finished next month. 5: In order to put the new information at the end of the sentence to improve style Three books are used regularly in the class. The books were written by Dr. Bell. ('Dr. Bell wrote the books' sound clumsy) 6: When the subject is very long I was surprised by how well the students did in the test. (More natural than: 'how well the students did in the test surprised me') See also: Passive and passivé English Wikipedia has an article on:Wikipedia From Middle English passyf, passyve, from Middle French, French passif, from Latin passivus (“serving to express the suffering of an action; in late Latin literally capable of suffering or feeling”), from passus, past participle of pati (“to suffer”), ultimately from Proto-Indo-European *peh₁- (“to hurt”); compare patient. passive (comparative more passive, superlative most passive) Examples (being in the passive voice) The passive form of “A meteorite hit the earth” is “The earth was hit by a meteorite.” Being subjected to an action without producing a reaction. Taking no action. He remained passive during the protest. (grammar) Being in the passive voice. (psychology) Being inactive and submissive in a relationship, especially in a sexual one. (finance) Not participating in management. (aviation) Without motive power. passive flight, such as gliding and soaring (electronics) Of a component: that consumes but does not produce energy, or is incapable of power gain. (in "passive provision") Where allowance is made for a possible future event. Antonym: active 2021 May 5, Paul Clifton, “Network News: Heathrow Western Rail Access scheme 'on hold'”, in RAIL, number 930, page 26:There would be a shuttle service of four trains an hour from Reading, where the rebuilt station also has passive provision for the trains. inactive idle disinterested uninvolved passion passionate patience patient passive (plural passives) (grammar) The passive voice of verbs. (grammar) A form of a verb that is in the passive voice. (marketing) A customer who is satisfied with a product or service, but not keen enough to promote it by word of mouth. 2014, Roy Barnes, Bob Kelleher, Customer Experience For Dummies, page 266:If you want to improve your organization's NPS, you need to follow up with your detractors, passives, and promoters to understand why they answered your question as they did and what you can do better in the future. (electronics) Any component that consumes but does not produce energy, or is incapable of power gain. 2001, The Virginia Engineer, volume 50, page 20:Reductions In Both Size And Weight Offered By Integrated PassivesYou may not know it yet, but if you're like most consumers, you want integrated passives. 2010, Sridhar Canumalla, Puligandla Viswanadham, Portable Consumer Electronics: Packaging, Materials, and Reliability:The components include active devices such as logic, memory, processors, etc.; passives such as capacitors, resistors, crystal oscillators, inductances, etc.; […] (gaming) Ellipsis of passive attack. A thing whose worth decreases with time. French passiveGreek passiveimpersonal passiveshort passive “passive”, in Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary, Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam, 1913, →OCLC. William Dwight Whitney, Benjamin E[li] Smith, editors (1911), “passive”, in The Century Dictionary […], New York, N.Y.: The Century Co., →OCLC. IPA(key): /pa.siv/ Audio (France (Brétigny-sur-Orge)): passive feminine singular of passif passive Audio (Germany (Berlin)): passive IPA(key): /pas'si.ve/ Rhymes: -ive Hyphenation: pas·si·ve passive feminine plural of passivo From passīvus + -ē, ultimately from patior. passīvē (not comparable) passive alternative form of passyf passive alternative form of passyf Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (pāsʹĭv)adj.1. Receiving or subjected to an action without responding or initiating an action in return: the mind viewed as a passive receptacle for sensory experience.2. Accepting or submitting without objection or resistance; submissive: a passive acceptance of one's fate.3. Existing, conducted, or experienced without active or concerted effort: "Although tick paralysis is a reportable disease in Washington, surveillance is passive, and only 10 cases were reported during 1987-1995" (US Department of Health and Human Services). "[Many parents believe] that computers are educational and, at the least, less passive than television" (Laurie Hays).4. Of, relating to, or being certain bonds or shares that do not bear financial interest.5. Of, relating to, or being a solar heating or cooling system that uses no external mechanical power.6. Grammar Of, relating to, or being a verb form or voice used to indicate that the grammatical subject is the object of the action or the effect of the verb. For example, in the sentence They were impressed by his manner, were impressed is in the passive voice.7. Chemistry Unreactive except under special or extreme conditions; inert.8. Electronics Exhibiting no gain or contributing no energy: a passive circuit element.9. Psychology Relating to or being an inactive or submissive role in a relationship, especially a sexual relationship.n. Grammar 2. A verb or construction in the passive voice.[Middle English, from Old French passif, from Latin passīvus, subject to emotion, the passive, from passus, past participle of patī, to suffer; see pē(i)- in Indo-European roots.]American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. ('pæsɪv) adj1. not active or not participating perceptibly in an activity, organization, etc2. unresisting and receptive to external forces; submissive3. not working or operating4. affected or acted upon by an external object or force5. (Grammar) grammar denoting a voice of verbs in sentences in which the grammatical subject is not the logical subject but rather the recipient of the action described by the verb, as was broken in the sentence The glass was broken by a boy. Compare active5a6. (Chemistry) chem (of a substance, esp a metal) apparently chemically unreactive, usually as a result of the formation of a thin protective layer that prevents further reaction7. (Electronics) electronics telecomm a. containing no source of power and therefore capable only of attenuating a signal: a passive network. b. not capable of amplifying a signal or controlling a function: a passive communications satellite. 8. (Telecommunications) electronics telecomm a. containing no source of power and therefore capable only of attenuating a signal: a passive network. b. not capable of amplifying a signal or controlling a function: a passive communications satellite. 9. (Banking & Finance) finance (of a bond, share, debt, etc) yielding no interestn (Grammar) grammar [C14: from Latin passīvus susceptible of suffering, from patī to undergo] pas'sivity, 'passiveness nCollins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 ('pæs ɪv) adj. 1. not reacting visibly to something that might be expected to produce manifestations of an emotion or feeling. 2. not participating readily or actively; inactive: a passive member of a committee. 4. influenced, acted upon, or affected by some external force, cause, or agency (opposed to active). 5. receiving or characterized by the reception of impressions or influences from external sources. 6. produced or caused by an external agency. 7. receiving, enduring, or submitting without resistance; submissive. 8. of, pertaining to, or being a voice, verb form, or construction having a subject represented as undergoing the action expressed by the verb, as the sentence The letter was written last week (opposed to active). 9. chemically inactive, esp. under conditions in which chemical activity is to be expected. 10. (of a solar heat) treated so as to render corrosion-resistant. 11. (of a solar heating system) functioning without the aid of machinery, as pumps. n. 13. a passive verb form or construction. [1350–1400; Middle English < Latin passīvus literally, submissive =pass(us) (past participle of patī to experience, undergo) + -īvus -ive] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.In surveillance, an adjective applied to actions or equipments which emit no energy capable of being detected.Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms. US Department of Defense 2005.Used to describe a form of verb in which the grammatical subject is the object of the action, for example, the sentence “The government took steps.” in the passive would be Steps were taken by the government.” Compare activeDictionary of Unfamiliar Words by Diagram Group Copyright © 2008 by Diagram Visual Information Limited Noun1.passive - the voice used to indicate that the grammatical subject of the verb is the recipient (not the source) of the action denoted by the verb; "`The ball was thrown by the boy' uses the passive voice"; "`The ball was thrown' is an abbreviated passive"voice - (linguistics) the grammatical relation (active or passive) of the grammatical subject of a verb to the action that the verb denotesAdj.1.passive - lacking in energy or will; "Much benevolence of the passive order may be traced to a disinclination to inflict pain upon oneself"- George Meredithactive - disposed to take action or effectuate change; "a director who takes an active interest in corporate operations"; "an active antagonism"; "he was active in drawing attention to their grievances"2.passive - peacefully resistant in response to injustice; "passive resistance"nonviolent - abstaining (on principle) from the use of violence3.passive - expressing that the subject of the sentence is the patient of the action denoted by the verb; "academics seem to favor passive sentences"grammar - the branch of linguistics that deals with syntax and morphology (and sometimes also deals with semantics)active - expressing that the subject of the sentence has the semantic function of actor: "Hemingway favors active constructions"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.adjective1. submissive, resigned, compliant, receptive, lifeless, docile, nonviolent, quiescent, acquiescent, unassertive, unresisting their passive acceptance of the new regime submissive spirited, violent, lively, energetic, defiant, assertive, rebellious, feisty (informal, chiefly U.S. & Canad.), bossy (informal), domineering, zippy (informal)Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002adjective The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. غَيْر فَعّال, سَلْبِيمَبني للمَجْهولمُسْتَسْلِمْ passiivinenkorotonpassiivipassiivimuotopassiivimuotoinenaïgerïalaus, óvirkurí òolmyndneveikiamosios rūšiespasyviaipasyvuspasiftepki göstermeyenedilgenCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 ['pæsɪv] adj [person, at passif/ive (GRAMMAR) [voice] → passif/ive n (GRAMMAR) the passive → le passifCollins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 ['pæsɪv]1. adj (gen) (Gram) → passivo/a2. n → passivoin the passive → al passivoCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 ('pæsiv) adjective1. showing no interest, emotion etc, or not resisting an attack etc. The villagers showed passive resistance to the enemy passief غَيْر فَعّال, سَلْبِي безучастен passivo pasivní passiv passiv passiv παθητικός, απαθήςpasivo passiivne آرام; بى تفاوت passiivinen passif پاسیو passif bez otpora passzív pasif aðgerðalaus, óvirkur passivo 消極的な pasyvus, abejingas pasīvs pasif passiefpassivbierny غير فعال:زغمونك, گالونکی، متحمل صابر passivo pasiv пассивный pasívny pasiven pasivan passiv 消極的 пасивний, бездіяльний والا انفعالي، خاموشي س برداشت کرن thụ động 消极的2. of the form of the verb used when the subject bitten by the dog. lydend مَبني للمَجْهول страдателен passivo trpný passiv passiv παθητικόςpasiva passiiv, tehtavik مجهول passiivi passif סביל trpni oblik, pasiv szenvedő (alak) bentuk pasif í þolmynd passivo 受動態の neveikiamosios rūšies ciešamās kārtas- pasif lijdende vorm passiv czasownik w stronie biernej غير فعال passivo pasiv пассивный, страдательный trpný rod pasiv glagola pasiv passiv edilgen 被動語態 пасивний فعل مج ول thể bị động 被动语态'passively adverb passief يصورَةٍ غير فَعّالَه безучастно passivamente netečně passiv passivt παθητικά pasivamente, con pasividad passiivselt با بى تفاوتى passiivisesti passivement פאסיבי פאסיוו passiveness noun passiwiteit عَدَم تَنشاط, لا فاعليَّه безучастност passividade netečnost die Passivität passivitet پاسیویته passiivsus بى تفاوتى passiivisuus passivité פאסיביות passividade passivitate passiviteitpassivitetbierność غير فعال, تحمل, گالنه passividade passivitate пассивность ľahostajnosť pasivnost pasivnost passivitet eylemsizlik 被動 невикористання động 被动pas'sivity noun passiwiteit عَدَم تَنشاط, لا مُبالاه безучастност passividade pasivita die Passivität passivitet παθητικότητα pasividad passiivsus عدم فعاليت passiivisuus passivité פאסיביות manjak otpora passzivitás sikap pasif hlutleysi; aðgerðaleysi passività 受動性 ; , pasyvumas pasivitāte kepasifan passiviteitpassivitet pasywność متحملانه، دگالني له مخي passividade pasivnost pasivnost passivitet eylemsizlik 消極 пасивність, інертність حالت جمود sự thờ ơ 消极Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary © 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. → مُسْتَسْلِمْ pasivní passiv passiv παθητικός pasivo passiivinen passif pasivan passivo 受身の passief passiv bierny passivo пассивный passiv pasif bị động 被动的Multilingual Translator HarperCollins Publishers 2009a. pasivo-a; sumiso-a; inactivo-a, que no es espontáneo o activo;___ exercise → ejercicio ___. English-Spanish Medical Dictionary © Farlex 2012English-Spanish/Spanish-English Medical Dictionary Copyright © 2006 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: The second is passive, defensive,--to it belongs the "struggle for existence.""To think o' these cloths as I spun myself," she went on, lifting things out and turning them over with an excitement all the more strange and piteous because the stout blond woman was usually so passive,--if she had been ruffled before, it was at the surface merely,--"and Job Haxey wove 'em, and brought the piece home on his back, as I remember standing at the door and seeing him come, before I ever thought o' marrying your father!With the snapping of her tail-shaft her life seemed suddenly to depart from her big body, and from a stubborn, arrogant existence she passed all at once into the passive state of a drifting log.On the other side, nobility extinguisheth the passive envy from others, towards them; because they are in possession of honor.Her head lay on his bosom, passive--horribly passive, like the head of a corpse.A curious passive inattention had such possession of her, that the presence of her little sister in the room did not attract her notice for some time.He sat still and passive, his head resting against the back of the wooden rocking-chair, his hands relaxed upon the arms.We will disobey!" But at the moment he was about to adopt this plan, he saw the officers around him reading similar orders, which the passive agent of the thoughts of that infernal Colbert had distributed to them."In the present affair I am only a passive spectator.And Levin had been struck by the passive, weary incredulity with which the children heard what their mother said to them.The Venetians were not agreeable to it, nor was the King of Spain, and he had the enterprise still under discussion with the King of France; nevertheless he personally entered upon the expedition with his accustomed boldness and energy, a move which made Spain and the Venetians stand irresolute and passive, the latter from fear, the former from desire to recover the kingdom of Naples; on the other hand, he drew after him the King of France, because that king, having observed the movement, and desiring to make the Pope his friend so as to humble the Venetians, found it impossible to refuse him.In the twilight of the morning light seems active, darkness passive; in the twilight of evening it is the darkness which is active and crescent, and the light which is the drowsy reverse.