



Passive form

La frase passiva si forma con la struttura seguente:

Passive form

Soggetto + **be** (coniugato nello stesso tempo del verbo attivo) + **past participle** + complemento d'agente

Ex. *Oliver Twist was written by Charles Dickens.*

La tabella che segue mostra la trasformazione dalla frase attiva a quella passiva.

Verb tenses	Active form	Passive form
Present simple	<i>He writes letters.</i>	<i>Letters are written.</i>
Past simple	<i>He wrote letters.</i>	<i>Letters were written.</i>
Future simple	<i>He will write letters.</i>	<i>Letters will be written.</i>
Modals - simple form	<i>He would/can/must/may write letters.</i>	<i>Letters would/can/must/may be written.</i>
Present continuous	<i>He is writing letters.</i>	<i>Letters are being written.</i>
Past continuous	<i>He was writing letters.</i>	<i>Letters were being written.</i>
Present perfect	<i>He has written letters.</i>	<i>Letters have been written.</i>
Past perfect	<i>He had written letters.</i>	<i>Letters had been written.</i>
Future perfect	<i>He will have written letters.</i>	<i>Letters will have been written.</i>
Modals - perfect form	<i>He would/can/must/may have written letters.</i>	<i>Letters would/can/must/may have been written.</i>

Uso:

- il complemento d'agente o di causa efficiente si introduce con **by**; tuttavia *by* non si usa con *someone, anyone, no one, people, them*; in questi casi si preferisce la forma attiva;
Ex. *Someone is watching a film.*
- i verbi seguiti da preposizione la mantengono nella forma passiva;
Ex. *William looked at her all night long. → She was looked at by William all night long.*
- i verbi con doppio complemento oggetto usano la persona o il pronome riferito alla persona come soggetto della forma passiva.
Ex. *They will give me a letter for her. → I will be given a letter for her.*

