

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

They **sell** tickets the day of the show.

Tickets **are sold** the day of the show.

Many people **saw** the movie *Titanic* last night.

The movie *Titanic* **was seen** by many people last night.

Shakespeare **wrote** the play *The Tempest*.

The play *The Tempest* **was written** by Shakespeare.

LANGUAGE NOTES:

1. The passive voice is created by using a form of *be* + the past participle. A passive verb is often followed by *by* + the person or thing doing or **performing** the action:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Be</i>	<i>Past participle</i>	<i>By performer of action</i>
The movie	was	seen	by millions of people.

2. The active voice focuses on the performer of the action. In other words, the subject performs the action:

My brother saw the movie *Titanic* six times.

(The emphasis is on **My brother**, and he performs the action.)

The passive voice focuses on the receiver of the action. The action is not performed by the subject of the sentence. The subject receives the action:

The movie *Titanic* was seen by millions of people.

(The emphasis is on **the movie Titanic**, but it is not the performer.)

EXERCISE 1

Write *Active* if the sentence is active or *Passive* if the sentence is passive. Underline the performer of the action. In some cases, there is no performer.

Example: _____ *Active* _____ Millions of people watch TV every night.

_____ *Passive* _____ TV sets are purchased by millions of people.

1. _____ Many people have more than one TV in their home.
2. _____ Cable television is seen by people all over the world.
3. _____ People in many different countries watch the same TV shows.
4. _____ Many people use the Internet to shop.
5. _____ More and more people are drawn to the Internet's possibilities.
6. _____ The Internet is used every day by millions of people.
7. _____ Have you seen any good videos recently?
8. _____ The video has been rented.
9. _____ We were stopped by the police.
10. _____ The homework will be completed by the students tomorrow.

EXERCISE 2

Use the following words to write statements in the passive voice.

Example: (the patient / examine / by the doctor)

The patient is examined by the doctor.

1. (a book / write / by an author)

2. (an airplane / fly / by a pilot)

3. (a ballet / dance / by dancers)

4. (students / teach / by teachers)

5. (instruments / play / by musicians)

6. (buildings / build / by construction workers)

7. (Web sites / design / by the computer programmers)

8. (the language / learn / by the students)

9. (the fish / catch / by the fishermen)

10. (the delicious meal / prepare / the chef)
