

ENGLISH COURSE

Welcome!

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THE PASSIVE VOICE



When do we use it?

When the agent is unknown

Flats are sold

Anne was given a kiss

When the agent is not important

The house can be visited between 8 and 14.

When we want to give importance to the object of the active voice

America was discovered in 1492 by Columbus

The passive is used more in writing and formal speech, such as public information (rules, signs, brochures ...) and media reports.

Cycling is not permitted in this area. Bookings can be made online.

HOW TO FORM PASSIVE VOICE

Someone **cleans** **the streets** every day

The streets are cleaned every day

VERB CHANGES: **TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE**
(**same verbal tense of the active sentence**)

Columbus **discovered** **America** in 1492

America was discovered by Columbus in 1492

VERB CHANGES: TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE
(same verbal tense of the active sentence)

We have elected a new President
A new President has been elected (by us)

They are playing the match on Saturday
The match is being played on Saturday (by them)

❓ If the object is a pronoun, make sure to change it to a subject pronoun:

me ❓ I him ❓ he her ❓ she them ❓ they us ❓ we

I bought him a present.

He was bought a present.

TENSE

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

Present Simple

I **make** a cake

A cake **is** made

Present Contin.

I **'m making** a cake

A cake **is being** made.

Past Simple

I **made** a cake.

A cake **was** made.

Past Continuous

I **was making** a cake.

A cake **was being** made.

Present Perfect

I **have made** a cake

A cake **has been** made.

Past Perfect

I **had made** a cake.

A cake **had been** made.

Future Simple

I **will** make a cake.

A cake **will be** made.

Future be going to

I **'m going to** make a cake.

A cake **is going to be** made.

Modal

I **must** make a cake.

A cake **must be** made.

Modal Perfect

I **should have** made a cake.

A cake **should have been** made.

Never use (**do, does or did**) with the passive voice.

- They **didn't** sell all the tickets for the concert.
- *All the tickets **weren't** sold.*

- We **do not** give lesson on public holidays.
- *Lessons **are not** given on public holidays.*

If there is a preposition with the verb,
do not forget it.

Sue looks after the children.

?

The children are looked after by Sue

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- When you also want to mention the person or people that did the action use **by**.

“The new art exhibition was opened **by** the Queen.”

VERBS WITH TWO OBJECTS

bring, give, ask, pay, sell, offer, owe, show, tell, send, lend, leave, promise, take, teach, throw, write

They gave **Susan** a **prize**.

Susan was **given** a prize.

A **prize** was **given** to Susan.

If the verb has two objects, we usually use the **person** as the subject in the passive.

No one gave **me** any directions.

I wasn't given any directions.

- ✓ **GET** is used instead of BE with *passive meaning*. Informal English.
 - ☐ *I got stuck in a traffic jam*
 - ☐ *She is getting married*

Verbs like: Believe, Think,
Consider, Say, Report,
Know, Expect, Feel, Understand, Find

- ☐ Active: They say that he started the fire
- ☐ Active: They think that she doesn't live in London
- ☐ Active: We knew that the king is coming tomorrow

Passive with “introductory IT”

- ♦ *It is said that he started the fire*
- ♦ *It is thought that she doesn't live in London*
- ♦ *It was known that the King is coming tomorrow*

Formality

Vs.

Informality

{ 1 }

Two Barack Obama Interviews

- Watch a few minutes of each of these videos.
- Note the differences between the Formal and Informal language used.
- [Obama on the Ellen Degeneres Show](#) (informal)
- [Obama on “Speaking Freely” Radio Show](#) (formal)

Formal vs. Informal English

- Formality in the English language is arranged on a **sliding scale**.
- Knowledge of formality = good impressions & strong relationships.
- Knowledge of formality \approx politeness.

Formal vs. Informal English

Formal

- Conjunctions
- Complete sentences
- Precise vocabulary
- Complete responses
- More nouns
- Modality= modal verbs
- Doesn't chain clauses together

Informal

- Discourse markers
- Grammatical Ellipsis
- Vague vocabulary
- Shortened responses
- More pronouns
- Modality = adjectives and adverbs
- Clauses chained together

FORMAL ENGLISH CHARACTERISTICS

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Characteristics of Formal English 1

- **Conjunctions and markers organize logical and sequential links between clauses and sentences.**
 - For example:
 - *accordingly*
 - *therefore*
 - *subsequently*

Characteristics of Formal English 2

- **Complete sentences.**
 - For example these are preferred to more elliptical forms.
 - *The proposal sounds interesting;*
 - *I have spoken to Jim today;*
 - *That's a nice idea*

Characteristics of Formal English3

- **Greater precision in choices of vocabulary** and, in general, **words with classical origins.**
 - For example:
 - *fire* = more informal than *conflagration*
 - *home* = more informal than *domicile*.

Characteristics of Formal English4

- **Complete responses** that always contain a **main *finite verb**.
 - For example:
 - *I absolutely agree with what you say* is preferred to *Agreed*.
- The ***finite** forms of a verb = verb shows tense, person or singular plural.
 - **I go, she goes, he went** - These verb forms are finite.
- **Non-finite** verb forms have no person, tense or number.
 - **To go, going** - These verb forms are non-finite.

Characteristics of Formal English5

- **A greater use of nouns than either pronouns or verbs.**
 - *There are improvements in their technology* is preferred to *Their technology has improved.*
 - *The installation will be free* is preferred to *They'll install it free.*

Characteristics of Formal English6

- **Modality is more commonly conveyed through the use of modal verbs**
 - For example:
 - *must*
 - *might*
 - *could*
 - *should*
 - etc.

Characteristics of Formal English 7

- **Clause structure** which can be simple or complex but which **does not normally consist of clauses chained together**.
 - For example:
 - *I cannot meet you tonight because the cat is unfortunately unwell. However, please do call me anyway.*

INFORMAL ENGLISH CHARACTERISTICS

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Characteristics of Informal English 1

- **Discourse markers organize and link whole stretches of language**
 - Examples:
 - *anyway*
 - *well*
 - *right*
 - *now*
 - *OK*
 - *so*

Characteristics of Informal English 2

- **Grammatical ellipsis:** in which subjects, main verbs and sometimes articles are omitted.
 - The omissions assume the message can be understood by the recipient.
 - *Sounds good*(That sounds good);
 - *Spoken to Jim today* (I've spoken to Jim today);
 - *Nice idea* (That was a nice idea)

Characteristics of Informal English 3

- **Purposefully vague language.**
 - This includes very frequent nouns and phrases:
 - Nouns such as *thing* and *stuff*
 - Phrases such as *I think*, *I don't know*, *and all that*, *or so*, *sort of*, *whatever*, etc.
 - These serve to approximate and to make statements less assertive.

Characteristics of Informal English 4

- **Single words or short phrases are used for responding.**
 - For example:
 - *Absolutely*
 - *Exactly*
 - *I see.*

Characteristics of Informal English 5

- **Frequent use of personal pronouns**, especially *I* and *you* and *we*, **often in a contracted form** such as *I'd* or *we've*.

Characteristics of Informal English 6

- Modality is more commonly indicated by means of adjectives and adverbs
 - Examples:
 - *possibly*
 - *perhaps*
 - *certain*
 - Modal phrases such as
 - *be supposed to*
 - *be meant to*
 - *appear to*
 - *tend to*

Characteristics of Informal English

- **Clause structure which often consists of several clauses chained together.**
- For example:
 - *I'm sorry but I can't meet you tonight and the cat's ill which doesn't help but call me anyway.*

Review

Formal

- Conjunctions
- Complete sentences
- Precise vocabulary
- Complete responses
- More nouns
- Modality= modal verbs
- Doesn't chain clauses together

Informal

- Discourse markers
- Grammatical Ellipsis
- Vague vocabulary
- Shortened responses
- More pronouns
- Modality = adjectives and adverbs
- Clauses chained together

Usage

Formal

- Used for communication when relations are more unfamiliar.
- Normally found more frequently in writing

Informal

- Used in most face-to-face encounters
- Used with somebody the speaker knows well.
- Normally found more frequently in speech

Examples of the Spectrum

1. "Depart from this domicile and desist all your illegal larceny." (Ultra-formal)
2. "Leave the premises and cease stealing my property." (Formal)
3. "Get out of my house and stop taking my belongings." (Informal)
4. "Get outta my crib and quit jacking my stuff." (Ultra-informal, slangy)

Categorize These Nouns by Formality

- Business
- Craft
- Calling
- Trade
- Specialty
- Vocation
- Occupation
- Field
- Game
- Racket
- Employment

Categorize These Verbs by Formality

- introduce
- present
- demonstrate
- pitch
- suggest
- proposition
- show
- exhibit
- acquaint

Make These More Formal

1. She just wanted to say, "Hey y'all!"
2. That question is a no-brainer.
3. Dude, what's up with that?
4. That's the boss-man calling for ya, buddy.

Make These Less Formal

1. This vile medical concoction purportedly diminishes the required need for sleep.
2. Dear Sir, I compose this letter in response to your previous solicitation via telephone.
3. Madam, one might consider three potential destinations for your Caribbean excursion.
4. Might one offer a beverage to the guests during this *soiree*?



See you
next time!



Teacher Renata