

FUMC ESL 1-22-2015 High Intermediate Lesson

Group Talk: Answer these questions with your group.

Martin Luther King was a minister who fought against racism. He fought for equal rights for people of all colors.

Do you think there is still a lot of racism in America?

Is their racism in your country?

Is there a group of people that are discriminated against?

What would you do if a friend told you a racist joke?

Do you think that most people in the world are becoming more tolerant or less tolerant of others?

Active Vs. Passive

In most English sentences with an active verb, the subject is doing the action. This is called Active Voice.

The man ate two cheeseburgers. Bob mailed the letter. She has torn the paper.

In some sentences, the subject is being acted upon rather than doing the action. We call this Passive Voice.

Two cheeseburgers were eaten by the man. The letter was mailed by Bob. The paper was torn.
(you can say by her).

Most people prefer Active Voice because it is more direct. However, Passive Voice can be a better choice if the doer of the action is unknown. EX: The ballots have been counted. A suspect was questioned by the police.

OR if the emphasis is on the action not the person doing the action. EX: The high jump record was finally broken on Saturday.

	active	passive
present	We make butter from milk. Jo cleans these rooms.	Butter is made from milk. These rooms are cleaned by Jo.
past	That man stole my car. They don't invite me to their parties.	My car was stolen by that man. I am never invited to their parties.
present continuous	The city is building a new airport. They are tearing down houses near the river.	A new airport is being built by the city. The houses near the river are being torn down.
past continuous	When I was here in 2008, they were building a new airport.	When I was here in 2008, a new airport was being built.
present perfect	They have painted the door. Someone has washed my socks.	The door has been painted. My socks have been washed.

Mark these sentences as active or passive and change them to the other type.

EX: Firefighters rescued many people. **Active Change to: Many people were rescued by firefighters.**

1. The janitor found the key.
2. Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
3. Trucks are usually driven by men.
4. The Queen opens the bridge tomorrow.
5. An old Japanese man teaches calligraphy at the art museum.
6. This dictionary is used by most elementary schools.
7. The naughty children broke the window.
8. A new hat was bought by Sam.
9. Sara's doll was ruined by Joe.
10. Mother prepared our lunch.