

FUMC ESL 11-27-2017 High Intermediate Lesson

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. *The sentence is Active. Change to passive: 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.
6. This dictionary is used by most elementary schools.
7. The naughty children broke the window.
8. A new hat was bought by Sam.

English Pronunciation: Usually words that are spelled almost the same except for the first letter rhyme (sound alike).

Take for example:

take and bake show and low lime and time fish and dish

Say some other rhyming pairs you know.

But frequently, English spelling is not regular and some words that are spelled almost the same, don't rhyme. Tell which of these word pairs rhyme.

tough - cough cough - dough tough - bough

cork - work font - front word - sword

dead - bead rage - cage bed - led

read - dead great - eat threat - great

broth - both here - there bear - pear

dear - pear dose - rose goose - choose

rose - lose do - go no - go

Fluency Exercise: The teacher will give you a category. Everyone in the group must name something in that category. Teachers, change where you start so the same person is not always last.

African animals

Something needed for school

Type of crime

Something in the baby nursery

Tool a carpenter would use

