## Graphic Grammar: The Passive Voice

Name:

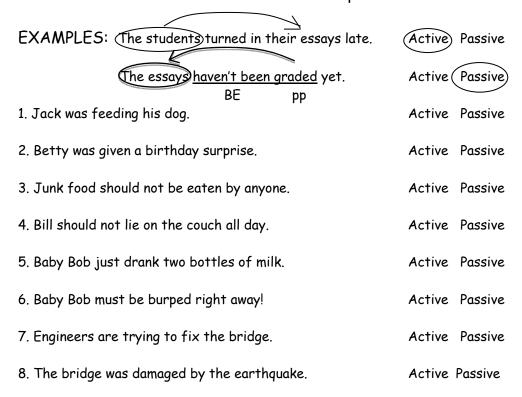
Fullerton College Writing Center

Watch the video. Then complete these exercises and check your answers.

## Part 1: Active or Passive?

In an active sentence, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sentence is doing the action of the verb. In a \_\_\_\_\_ sentence, someone else is doing the action of the verb to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

A. Circle the subject in each sentence below. Then draw an arrow showing the direction of the action. Is the sentence active or passive?



B. To check your answers above, underline the verbs. If there is a form of BE and a past participle, then it is a passive sentence. Write "BE" and "pp" under the verb.

## Part 2: Forms of BE

Complete the chart below .

Simple present	This car	_ stolen.
Present continuous	This car	_ stolen.
Present perfect	This car	_ stolen.
Modal (might)	This car	_ stolen.
Modal (could)	This car	_ stolen.
Future (will)	This car	_ stolen.

Simple past	This car_	stolen.
Past continuous	This car_	stolen.
Past perfect	This car_	stolen.
Past (might)	This car_	stolen.
Past (could)	This car_	stolen.
Future (going to)	This car	stolen.

## Part 3: Changing a Sentence from Active to Passive

We often use passive sentences when the subject is unknown, obvious, or unimportant. We also use passive to sound more polite or formal or to avoid blaming someone.

To change a sentence from active to passive, first find the object. The object becomes the subject. It could be the direct or indirect object, but if there is NO object, then the sentence **cannot** be changed to passive.

A. Circle the object in the sentences below. Then rewrite the sentence in passive form if possible.

EXAMPLE: People in Canada speak English and French

English and French are spoken by people in Canada.

- 1. Somebody knocked over the trash can again.
- 2. A blind person took these photos.
- 3. A translator translated this book from Russian to English in 1895.
- 4. Nobody has cleaned the bathroom for a week.
- 5. An accident happened on the freeway last night.
- 6. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- 7. We do not allow smoking on this campus.
- 8. They will collect the trash one day late this week.
- B. In the sentences that you wrote above, cross out the "by" phrases that are unknown, obvious, or not important.