

PASSIVE VOICE

I. Function and form:

Passive Voice is used when the speaker wants the listener to focus on the action being done, rather than the person/thing that does it.

S + be + V₃ ...

Example:

The firefighters **rescued** two children.

→ Two children **were rescued by the firefighters** _____ .

The coders **are fixing** all the problems with the computer system.

→ All problems with **the computer system are being fixed** _____ .

The construction company **should repair** this bridge.

→ This bridge **should be repaired by the construction company** _____ .

II. By ...:

“By ...” is usually placed after everything else EXCEPT an adverb of time.

All the documents were sent to the university **by Jonathan yesterday**.

We usually do not use “by ...” for **pronouns (you, me, them, us, her, him, it), people, everyone, someone, noone, anyone**.

In reality, sometimes the speaker really wants to highlight the agent.

The event **can be attended by anyone**.

My mom cooked all of this food. The whole party **was prepared by her**.

III. Using adverbs in Passive Voice:

In Passive Voice, the adverb is usually placed **before V₃**.

Their company's email **was fully provided in the letter**.

The patient's health **must be carefully checked by the nurses**.

If there is a modal verb, these adverbs are placed **before be + V₃**.

+ **Adverbs of frequency**: always, usually, often, sometimes, regularly, frequently, rarely, never, ...

Internet cables **may frequently be damaged by sharks**.

+ **Adverbs of probability**: definitely, certainly, clearly, obviously, possibly, perhaps, probably, maybe, ...

Universal Studio theme park **should definitely be checked out!**

IV. Be careful with the “Object”:

They are building a new hospital in this area.

→ A new hospital **is being built in this area** _____ .

The government is rebuilding a city in China.

→ A city **in China is being rebuilt** _____ .

[K-12 Note] Vì “new hospital” là thứ mới, không có ở đây, còn “city” đã tồn tại trước giờ ở China.