Voice

Active and Passive Voices

The voice of a verb represents the relationship between the action being described by it on the one hand **and the subject and the object** on the other.

Active Voice

> Subject (***doer of the action***) **+** Verb (***action***) **+** Object (***receiver of the action***)

If the subject is the doer of the action (i.e., **the subject is active**), then the verb is in the active voice. This voice is used when the doer of the action is to be emphasised.

For example:

> Pankaj **found** the treasure.
>
> Here, 'Pankaj' is the subject, while 'the treasure' is the object. The doer of the action ('to find') is the subject. Hence, the verb is used in the active voice.

Passive Voice

> Subject (***receiver of the action***) **+** BE (***helping verb***) **+** Verb (***action***) **+** Object (***doer of the action***)

If the subject is the receiver of the action (i.e., **the subject is passive**), then the verb is in the passive voice. In other words, **the object in the active voice becomes the subject in the passive voice**. This voice is used when the receiver of the action is to be emphasised.

For example:

The treasure **was found** by Pankaj.

Here, 'the treasure' is the subject, while 'Pankaj' is the object. The receiver of the action ('to find') is the subject. Hence, the verb is used in the passive voice.

If the subject in the active voice is unknown or indefinite (for example: anyone, anybody, someone, somebody, people), then the passive voice is favoured.

For example:

Anyone **can do** this work.

(Here, the subject 'anyone' is indefinite.)

This work **can be done**.

(Here, the emphasis is on 'the work')

Changes in the verb form from the active voice to the passive voice

When the verb is in the *simple present tense*

Gagan **throws** the stone.

The stone **is thrown** by Gagan.

When the verb is in the *present continuous tense*

Gagan **is throwing** the stone.

The stone **is being thrown** by Gagan.

When the verb is in the *present perfect tense*

Gagan **has thrown** the stone.

The stone **has been thrown** by Gagan.

When the verb is in the *simple past tense*

Gagan **threw** the stone.

The stone **was thrown** by Gagan.

When the verb is in the *past continuous tense*

Gagan **was throwing** the stone.

The stone **was being thrown** by Gagan.

When the verb is in the *past perfect tense*

Gagan **had thrown** the stone.

The stone **had been thrown** by Gagan.

When the verb is in the *simple future tense*

Gagan **will throw** the stone.

The stone **will be thrown** by Gagan.