

# Newspaper Article: Passive Voice

## Active Voice: Form

- The “normal” voice.
- The **object** receives the action.

active	subject	verb	object
	<i>Cats</i>	eat	<i>fish.</i>

## Passive Voice: Form

- The **object** of the active verb becomes the **subject** of the passive verb
- The **subject** receives the action
- “by” is used to show the agent of the action (but is not always necessary).

passive	subject	verb + participle	object
	<i>Fish</i>	are eaten	<b>by cats.</b>

## Passive Voice: Use

- We often use the passive structure to put **emphasis** on the action rather than the agent, often for **dramatic effect**.
- It is not always necessary to show the agent i.e. when the agent is **obvious** from context, **unknown** or **unimportant**.
- We can also use the passive voice to **eliminate redundancy** i.e. by not unnecessarily repeating the agent.

	subject	verb (+ participle)	object
active	<i>Somebody</i>	stole	<i>my bike.</i>
passive	<i>My bike</i>	was stolen.	<i>(by somebody).</i>

# Conjugation

- We can form the passive in any tense.
- The main verb is always in **past participle** form and the auxiliary verb is always **be (be+past participle)**.
- To form the required tense, we conjugate the auxiliary verb, for example:

**present simple:** These chairs **are** made by hand.

**present continuous:** This chair **is being** made by hand.

**present perfect:** This chair **has been** made by hand.

<b>infinitive</b>		to be washed
<b>simple</b>	present	It is washed.
	past	It was washed.
	future	It will be washed.
	conditional	It would be washed.
<b>continuous</b>	present	It is being washed.
	past	It was being washed.
	future	It will be being washed.
	conditional	It would be being washed.
<b>perfect simple</b>	present	It has been washed.
	past	It had been washed.
	future	It will have been washed.
	conditional	It would have been washed.
<b>perfect continuous</b>	present	It has been being washed.
	past	It had been being washed.
	future	It will have been being washed.
	conditional	It would have been being washed.

## Formal Structures

- ...is known as/to be...
- ...is said/thought to be...
- There is reported/known to be...
- It is reported/said/believed/thought that...

**1: Underline the passive forms in the article.**

Pg 2, Thursday, January 1, 2015

## **The Tamworth Herald**

### **Woman's plea after dogs are attacked.**

**By Nicola Robinson – News Editor**

A Tamworth woman is appealing for information after her two rescue dogs were viciously attacked by another animal – leaving one needing surgery.

The incident happened as Lorraine Jones took her Yorkshire terrier-poodle cross Pepper and Westie Bertie for a late-night walk, on December 21 near her home in Field Farm Road, Belgrave.

“The dog launched at Pepper and clamped on her trying to drag her away and pulled me over at the same time,” Ms Jones explained. “I just screamed for help to get it off us.”

Fortunately Ms Jones' cries were heard by her neighbours who rushed to her aid. But as soon as Pepper was freed, the dog then “clamped down” on Bertie's neck.

She said: “It was shaking him violently and it bit me in the process. The owner just stood there and said, “What do you expect me to do about it?”

Ms Jones needed stitches in her left hand. Bertie suffered deep wounds to the neck and had to have eight stitches and undergo an operation, while Pepper suffered cuts to her leg.

Both dogs have been prescribed antibiotics and pain killers and the drama meant Ms Jones was forced to cancel her plans to spend Christmas Day in Yorkshire.

Kind friends and generous members of the “Free to Collect Tamworth” Facebook page all donated food so Ms Jones could enjoy a festive meal, and old blankets to keep the shaven dogs warm.

Ms Jones added: “We're so lucky my neighbours were there to help us or I don't know what would have happened.”

Anyone with information about the dog – described as tan coloured and possibly a staffie-American bulldog cross – or its owner, who was also walking a smaller black dog, is urged to contact Staffordshire Police by calling 101, quoting the incident number 817 of December 21.

**2: For sentences 1-6, choose what you think is reason for the passive being used. Write the letter of the reason next to the sentences. There may be more than one possibility.**

- A. It is obvious who is responsible for the action.
- B. To emphasise the action and not the agent.
- C. To add dramatic effect.
- D. It is referring to something in general rather than a specific person.
- E. To not repeat the agent (to reduce redundancy).

1. Her two rescue dogs were viciously attacked by another animal. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ms Jones' cries were heard by her neighbours. \_\_\_\_\_
3. But as soon as Pepper was freed, the dog then "clamped down" on Bertie's neck. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Both dogs have been prescribed antibiotics and pain killers. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ms Jones was forced to cancel her plans. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Anyone with information about the dog is urged to contact Staffordshire Police by calling 101. \_\_\_\_\_

**3: Now re-write the passive sentence using active voice.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**4: Read the text again but read it with the active voice sentences. Does it have the same effect?**

**5: In pairs, try to re-tell the story using the passive voice when possible and appropriate.**

## Answers

1:

1. woman's dogs are attacked (in the title)
2. her two rescue dogs were viciously attacked by another animal
3. Ms Jones' cries were heard by her neighbours
4. But as soon as Pepper was freed
5. Both dogs have been prescribed antibiotics and pain killers
6. Ms Jones was forced to cancel her plans
7. Anyone with information about the dog is urged to contact Staffordshire Police by calling 101

2:

1. Her two rescue dogs were viciously attacked by another animal. **B, C (the dramatic effect is also emphasised by the use of the word 'animal' – keeping information from the reader to encourage them to read on)**
2. Ms Jones' cries were heard by her neighbours. **B,C**
3. But as soon as Pepper was freed, the dog then "clamped down" on Bertie's neck. **A, (because the neighbours have already been mentioned in the previous sentence)**
4. Both dogs have been prescribed antibiotics and pain killers. **A (the only person that would prescribe medication for a dog is a vet)**
5. Ms Jones was forced to cancel her plans. **D (the overall situation)**
6. Anyone with information about the dog is urged to contact Staffordshire Police by calling 101. **A, E (the police and/or the victim are obvious from context but you would have to repeat the word Police to make this sentence active – see 3)**

3:

1. **Another animal viciously attacked her two rescue dogs.**
2. **Her neighbours heard Ms Jones' cries.**
3. **As soon as the neighbours freed Pepper, the dog then clamped down on Bertie's neck.**
4. **A vet prescribed both dogs with antibiotics and pain killers.**
5. **The incident/situation forced Ms Jones to cancel her plans.**
6. **The police and Ms Jones urge anybody with information about the dog to contact Staffordshire Police by calling 101.**