

# Active Voice

**Active voice** is the grammatical construction, which is the common order of these three basic elements in a sentence:

Subject + verb phrase + object



e.g. *The Thomsons wash their car.*

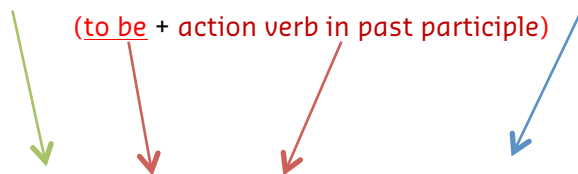
People don't eat fast food.

I sell computers.

Observe that these action verbs (wash, eat, sell) are in PRESENT TENSE, so...

**Passive Voice** is another way to order these three components, where the subject and object exchange their positions, and the verb phrase has to be expressed differently:

Object + verb phrase + by + Subject



e.g. *Their car is washed by the Thomsons.*

*Fast food isn't eaten by people.*

*Computers are sold by me.*

...in Passive voice, the verb to be is added in PRESENT TENSE too, + the action verb in past participle.

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**Notice!** Passive voice is usually more formal than Active voice.

Check these examples

1. They use the computer every day. → The computer **is** used by them everyday.
2. Humans invent many new things. → Many new things **are** invented by humans.
3. People don't buy expensive cell phones. → Expensive cell phones **are not** bought by people.