

# Using the Passive Voice

*What is passive voice?*

In the Passive Voice, the subjects of a sentence become the objects of the sentence. This is in contrast to the Active Voice, in which the subject *acts* in the sentence. Writers should use the active voice instead of the passive voice unless there is a good reason for choosing the passive voice.

*Passive Voice...*

⇒ **Verbs include any form of "to be"**

Such as *am, is, are, were, was, be, been, being*.

*Passive Voice looks like...*

- *We did not take down the party decorations until yesterday.*

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- *The party decorations were not taken down until yesterday.*

⇒ **Should be used when the writer does not want to emphasise the subject**

- *Writers should use the active voice.*

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- *The active voice should be used by writers.*

⇒ **Should be used when the subject is unknown**

- *No one has discovered a cure for cancer, as of yet.*

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- *A cure for cancer has not yet been discovered.*