

Sentences in Active and Passive Voice

Here are examples of sentences written in both the active voice and the passive voice, with the active voice sentence appearing first:

- a. Harry ate six shrimp at dinner. (active)
At dinner, six shrimp were eaten by Harry. (passive)
- b. Beautiful giraffes roam the savannah. (active)
The savannah is roamed by beautiful giraffes. (passive)
- c. Sue changed the flat tire. (active)
..... (passive)
- d. We are going to watch a movie tonight. (active)
..... (passive)
- e. I ran the obstacle course in record time. (active)
..... (passive)
- f. (active)
The entire stretch of highway was paved by the crew. (passive)
- g. (active)
The novel was read by Mom in one day. (passive)
- h. The critic wrote a scathing review. (active)
..... (passive)
- i. I would clean the house every Saturday if I weren't so lazy. (active)
..... (passive)
- j. (active)
A safety video will be watched by the staff every year. (passive)
- k. (active)
The application for a new job was faxed by her. (passive)
- l. (active)
The entire house was painted by Tom. (passive)
- m. Larry generously donated money to the homeless shelter. (active)
..... (passive)
- n. Susan will bake two dozen cupcakes for the bake sale. (active)
..... (passive)
- o. Who ate the last cookie? (active)
.....? (passive)
- p. Alex has posted the video on Facebook. (active)
..... (passive)
- q. (active)
Instructions will be given to you by the director. (passive)

Causative

Causative verbs express the idea of somebody causing something to happen or causing another person to do something.

make somebody do something (make + object + infinitive without to): somebody requires another person to do something

- a. The barking dog made the postman run away.
- b. The rain has made the tourists stay in the hotel this morning.
- c. I don't think she can make her husband buy that expensive ring.
- d. I always cry when I see sad movies.

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have something done (have + object + 3rd form of the verb): somebody wants something to be done for them

- a. Did you have the car washed yesterday?
- b. I have my hair cut once in 2-3 months.
- c. We've had the lawn mowed by the neighbour's son.
- d. Jane will clean the curtains at the dry cleaner's tomorrow.

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Note: **get** is often used instead of **have** in informal speech:

- a. Did you get your hair cut before the weekend?
- b. We must get the house decorated for the wedding.
- c. I must cut my hair for the party as soon as possible.

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get somebody to do something (get + object + infinitive with to): somebody requires or inspires another person to do something

- a. Let's get mother to bake a cake on Sunday.
- b. I couldn't get my sister to wash my dirty overalls.
- c. The tap is leaking, get a plumber to fix it.
- d. She always gets me to help with her homework.