

Active | Passive

Passives are used when . . .

P

A

We don't know who did the action.

The bank was robbed.

Someone robbed the bank.

We don't want to say who did the action.

The copier was broken.

I broke the copier.

The object is the focus of attention.

Some money was found.

Mary found some money.

Change these sentences from active to passive.

EX: The pilot landed the plane safely.

The plane was landed safely by the pilot. 

1. Francis Ford Coppola directed The Godfather.

2. I broke the door to the lunch room.

3. My brother made these drinks.

4. Craftsmen in Japan make dolls called "kokeshi."

5. Vladimir Nabokov wrote the novel Lolita in 1958.

6. Yulia will give a presentation on pollution tomorrow.

7. This morning I left the door unlocked.

8. The White Stripes are going to play a concert in L.A.

9. Movie studios release hundreds of movies each year.

10. Mike drew this image of a woman in a Kimono.



Passives

This worksheet is for students who need a nice quick *review* of, or *introduction* to the passive voice.

How to use the worksheet.

1. **Elicit** some examples from students. I like to use the story that I broke the copy machine and I don't want my boss to know. I write that on the board: "Mike broke the copy machine." I have to tell my boss something but I don't want to say it was me! What can I do? This helps elicit the example and the reason for using it.
2. **Give** the students the worksheet and have them read the examples if you haven't elicited them to the board yet. And have them **do** the activities.
3. **Check** their answers and **drill** them again and again.

Note: Look out! It's important to point out when it's appropriate and natural to use passives. Knowing the difference can be a bit hard for second-language learners. Looking at number three, it's a lot easier to just say, "My brother made these drinks." instead of, "These drinks were made." which sounds strange, or "These drinks were made by my brother." I find a quick talk about which is more natural helps most people get a feel for it and gives a reason for their usage beyond "It sounds natural," which is sort of a lazy teacher cop out. Forcing the sentence patterns on students without reason is just a waste of time and effort. Keep it real.

Like these worksheets and have a suggestion for more? Notice a typo and want to see it corrected? Let me know!
myenglishimages@gmail.com