

# Module 3 – Passive and Impersonal Structures

Title: "Let the Action Speak – Mastering the Passive"

## [Opening]

Hi again, and welcome to a new lesson!

Today, we're going to focus on passive voice — how to use it, why we use it, and how it changes depending on the tense.

We'll also explore impersonal structures, which are very common in formal English and writing.

Let's begin by understanding why we use the passive.

## [Section 1 – Why Use the Passive?]

In English, we use the passive when:

- The doer of the action is unknown, obvious, or not important
- We want to emphasize the action or result, not the person

Compare:

They built the bridge in 2010. → Active

The bridge was built in 2010. → Passive

Both are correct, but the focus is different.

The active voice focuses on the subject (they),

The passive voice focuses on the object (the bridge).

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## [Section 2 – Passive Construction]

Forming the passive:

be + past participle

Passive verb structure changes depending on the tense of be.

Let's see examples in different tenses:

Tense	Active	Passive
Present Simple	People make coffee	Coffee <b>is made</b>
Past Simple	They built the house	The house <b>was built</b>
Present Perfect	She has written the report	The report <b>has been written</b>
Future (will)	They will finish the work	The work <b>will be finished</b>
Modal	We must do it	It <b>must be done</b>

## [Section 3 – Modals in Passive]

Let's look more closely at modals in passive:

- *The letter must be sent today.*
- *The room should be cleaned.*
- *The work might be finished soon.*
- *The documents could have been lost.* (past possibility)

So:

modal + be + past participle (present/future)

modal + have been + past participle (past)

## [Section 4 – Passive Focus: Academic/Objective Style]

Passive voice is especially common in news reports, academic writing, and scientific texts.

Example:

*The vaccine was developed in record time.*

→ Focus on result, not the scientists.

*The results have been published in a medical journal.*

→ Neutral, objective tone.

## [Section 5 – Impersonal Structures]

Let's now look at impersonal passive structures.

These are often used when reporting information, especially in news or formal writing.

Two main forms:

### 1. It is said that... / It is believed that...

*It is said that the artist lives in Rome.*

*It is believed that the planet could support life.*

### 2. Subject + is said/believed/thought + to + verb

*The artist is said to live in Rome.*

*The planet is believed to support life.*

*She is thought to have left the country.*

💡 Note how the second version is more concise and advanced.

## [Mini-section – Practice Phrase]

Here's a useful sentence to remember both structures:

*"The book is said to be a masterpiece."*

Or:

*"It is said that the book is a masterpiece."*

Both are correct — choose based on style and emphasis.

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## [Recap & Outro]

Let's recap:

Use the passive to focus on actions or results

Structure: be + past participle, with tense changes

Use modals in passive: must be done, should have been finished

Use impersonal passive for formal, indirect reporting:

→ It is believed that... / He is said to...

Thanks for watching! In the next lesson, we'll tackle conditional sentences and how to express real and unreal situations in English.

See you next time!