

Hello. It's April 7, 2010

We are going to work on the passive voice.

And I'll take your questions.

The machines must be made of durable material.

The machines have to be made of durable material.

must = have to

durable = strong; able to withstand pressure, weather, heat, etc.;

He delivers the mail every day. (present tense)

The mail is delivered every day.

He delivered the mail every day. (past tense)

A fire *destroyed* that house.

The verb "be" indicates the past tense....

destroy / *destroyed* / **destroyed**

That house was **destroyed** by a fire.

Bob will take the book home.

The book will be taken by Bob.

take / took / taken

They will eat the cake quickly.

eat / ate / eaten

The cake will be eaten quickly.

One of the reasons for using the passive voice is so that you don't need to mention who is doing the action.

My assistant has finished the report.

This is in the present perfect tense.

has or have + past participle

The report has been finished.

The reports have been finished.

I have ...

You have...

He has...

She has...

It has...

drive / drove / driven

I've driven my car over 100,000 miles.

My car has been driven over 100,000 miles.

The police arrested the thief. (active voice)

The verb "be" indicates the tense. This sentence is in the past tense.

The thief was arrested.

The thief was arrested by the police. (passive voice)

I want you to be able to figure these sentences out by yourselves.

My friend manages the store.

The store is managed by my friend.

Can you make a question out of this? Change "my" to "your."

Is the store managed by your friend?

She buys a lot of things at that store.

A lot of things are bought by her at that store.

They can pay the bill. (active voice)

The bill can be paid. (passive voice)

The police must warn everyone in the neighborhood.

Prepositional phrases provide information about nouns.

warn / warned / warned

Everyone in the neighborhood must be warned by the police.

We have to help all the students in the classroom.

All the students in the classroom have to be helped.

They're keeping the apples in the refrigerator.

keep / kept / kept

present continuous tense: (be) \_\_\_ing

The apples are being kept in the refrigerator.

They're making dinner right now.

make / made / made

Dinner is being made.

I hope the webinars help people who have questions with lessons that are featured for the week.

I'm going to open the webinar up to questions now.

A lot of people use the passive voice without realizing they're using it. This is one reason why it's important for you to know how to use the passive voice.

The passive voice is often a bad choice when you are writing or speaking.

The threat of attack has been greatly exaggerated. (present perfect)

The threat of attack was greatly exaggerated. (past)

exaggerate = inflate; to make something bigger than it actually is.

The media have greatly exaggerated the threat of attack.

I worked on the website all day today because I have some time off this week.

I added some audio to the Green Level lessons.

I added a reading selection to the Green Level yesterday. It's about the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

You'll notice that most of it is in the passive voice. This is because I'm describing a thing, a building.

Irina -- Where do you live?

Sometimes I can't respond to all the email.

One reason for doing the webinar is **so that** I can answer questions from students directly.

Where do you live?

I live in Atlanta.

Atlanta is in Georgia.

so that = because

I hold webinars **because** it's easier to answer questions directly from students.

I live in Atlanta, too. (from another student)

I'm doing a lot of work on my house right now, so I'm not sure if I'm having a webinar this weekend or not.

Have a good night.









