

Read the following examples:

<u>Active</u>	<u>Passive</u>	
1. I broke the glass	The glass <u>was</u> broken	الكَاسُ كُسِرَتْ
2. I break the glass	The glass <u>is</u> broken	الكَاسُ يُكْسَرُ
3. We broke the glasses	The glasses <u>were</u> broken	الكَؤُوسُ كُسِرَتْ
4. I am breaking the glasses	The glasses are <u>being</u> broken	الكَؤُوسُ عَمِيَّتْ كُسْرًا
5. She was breaking the glasses	The glasses were <u>being</u> broken	الكَؤُوسُ كَانَتْ عَمِيَّتْ كُسْرًا
6. They have broken the glass	The glass has <u>been</u> broken	الكَاسُ قَدْ كُسِرَ
7. She has broken the glasses	The glasses have <u>been</u> broken	الكَؤُوسُ قَدْ كُسِرَتْ
8. I had broken the glass	The glass had <u>been</u> broken	الكَاسُ كَانَتْ قَدْ كُسِرَ

In the first column, the sentence is in the active voice (مبني للمعلوم) and in the second column the same sentence is uttered in the passive voice (مبني للمجهول). Note that in each sentence, no matter which tense it is, the **VERB** is **ALWAYS** in the **THIRD FORM (V3)**. In addition, notice that there is **ALWAYS** a **VERB TO BE** before the verb (This is actually the evidence for the passive voice, BE + V3).

FORM:

ACTIVE: Pronoun + Verb + Object PASSIVE: Object + BE + V3

Suppose you have to choose between the ACTIVE and the PASSIVE voice in a cloze exercise, how do you do it? In addition to the unique meaning of the passive voice sentence, weak students can use the following hints:

- ☒ There is "BY" after the brackets: (was defeated / defeated) by the enemy. Here, the answer is "was defeated because there is "BY".
- ☒ The verb inside the brackets is transitive (متعدٍّ) but there is no object (مفعول به): He (defeated / was defeated). Here also, the answer is "was defeated".

So, after all, why do we need the passive voice? Well, we need it to describe actions where the person who did the action is not important, for example:

Ex. Ten people were killed in the accident.

In this sentence, the important thing is only that people were killed, and it doesn't really matter who killed them. It could be a car, a storm or a dog.