

are placed in sealed envelopes and the envelopes **are not opened** until the night of the ceremony.

Since 1953, Oscar night **has been televised** and **broadcast** all over the world. This show **is seen** by hundreds of millions of people. Viewers watch as their favorite movie stars arrive looking beautiful and hopeful.

2.2 The Passive Voice—Form

Compare active voice and passive voice in different tenses.

Tense	Active	Passive = <i>Be</i> + Past Participle
Simple Present	A committee chooses the winner.	The winner is chosen by a committee.
Present Continuous	They are presenting an award now.	An award is being presented now.
Future	They will pick the best movie. They are going to pick the best movie.	The best movie will be picked . The best movie is going to be picked .
Simple Past	They announced the winner's name.	The winner's name was announced .
Past Continuous	They were interviewing the winners.	The winners were being interviewed .
Present Perfect	They have chosen the best movie.	The best movie has been chosen .
Modal	You can see the movie on DVD.	The movie can be seen on DVD.

Language Notes:

- Both the active voice and the passive voice can be used with different tenses and with modals. The tense of the passive sentence is shown in the verb *be*. Use the past participle with every tense.
- If two verbs in the passive voice are connected with *and*, do not repeat *be*.
The Oscar ceremony **is televised and seen** by millions of people.

(continued)

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
<p>Before 1941, the winners' names were <i>already</i> known before the ceremony. Today the winners are <i>never</i> announced ahead of time.</p>	<p>An adverb can be placed between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.</p>
<p>Affirmative: The movie was filmed in the U.S. Negative: It wasn't filmed in Canada. Yes/No Question: Was it filmed in Hollywood? Short Answer: No, it wasn't. Wh- Question: Where was it filmed? Subject Question: Which movie was filmed in Canada?</p>	<p>Observe affirmative statements, negative statements, and questions with the passive voice. Never use <i>do</i>, <i>does</i>, or <i>did</i> with the passive voice. <i>(Wrong: The movie didn't filmed in Canada.)</i></p>
<p>Active: She saw him. Passive: He was seen <i>by</i> her. Active: They helped us. Passive: We were helped <i>by</i> them.</p>	<p>Notice the difference in pronouns in an active sentence and a passive sentence. After <i>by</i>, the object pronoun is used.</p>

EXERCISE 1 Read the following sentences. Decide if the underlined verb is active (A) or passive (P).

EXAMPLES The actress received an Oscar. **A**
 The actress was given an Oscar. **P**



- The actress wore a beautiful gown.
- Halle Berry presented an Oscar.
- Halle Berry has been seen in many movies.
- The director has been nominated many times.
- Old movies were filmed in black and white.
- Many actors live in California.
- Many movies are made in Hollywood.
- The names of the winners will be printed in tomorrow's newspaper.
- The actress thanked all the people who helped her win.
- The actress was driven to the ceremony in a white limousine.
- Hollywood was built at the beginning of the twentieth century.
- Hollywood has become the movie capital of the U.S.

EXERCISE 2 Fill in the blanks with the passive voice of the verb in parentheses. Use the tense or modal given.

EXAMPLE (simple present: *give*)

The best actor is given an Oscar.

1. (simple present: *see*)
The awards ceremony _____ by millions of people.
2. (future: *choose*)
Which actor _____ next year?
3. (modal: *can / see*)
The movie _____ at many theaters.
4. (present perfect: *make*)
Many movies _____ about World War II.
5. (simple past: *give*)
Kate Winslet _____ the best actress award in 2009.
6. (present continuous: *show*)
A good movie _____ at a theater near my house.
7. (simple past: *make*)
Star Wars _____ in 1977.
8. (present perfect: *show*)
The movie _____ on TV many times.
9. (present perfect: *give*)
Over 2,000 Academy Awards _____ out since 1929.
10. (simple past: *give*)
In 1929, only one award _____ to a woman.
11. (simple past: *add*)
When _____ sound _____ to movies?
It _____ in 1927.
12. (simple present: *often / make*)
Movies _____ in Hollywood.
13. (present perfect: *film*)
How many movies _____ in black and white?

2.3 Passive Voice and Active Voice—Uses

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
<p>Compare:</p> <p>Active: The man ate the fish.</p> <p>Passive: The man was eaten by the fish.</p> 	<p>When the verb is in the active voice, the subject performs the action. When the verb is in the passive voice, the subject receives the action.</p>
<p>A.</p> <p>Active: I see the Academy Awards ceremony every year.</p> <p>Passive: The Academy Awards ceremony is seen by millions.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>Active: Do you know the winners' names?</p> <p>Passive: The winners' names are not known until the night of the ceremony.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>Active: The Academy presents awards to the best actors and directors.</p> <p>Passive: The awards are presented every year.</p>	<p>The active voice focuses on the person who does the action. The passive voice focuses on the receiver or the result of the action.</p> <p>Sometimes the passive voice mentions the agent, the person who does the action (A). Sometimes it is not necessary to mention the agent (B and C).</p>

EXERCISE 3 Write an active sentence and a passive sentence for each subject. Choose an appropriate tense.

EXAMPLE Active: The test has 12 questions.

Passive: The test will be given in a large auditorium.

- Active: My textbook _____
Passive: My textbook _____
- Active: My best friend _____
Passive: My best friend _____
- Active: Some students _____
Passive: Some students _____
- Active: I _____
Passive: I _____

5. Active: Actors _____
 Passive: Actors _____
6. Active: Movies _____
 Passive: Movies _____

2.4 The Passive Voice Without an Agent

The passive voice is used more frequently without an agent than with an agent.

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
The invitations have been sent out. The winners' names are placed in envelopes.	The passive voice is used when it is not important to mention who performed the action.
A. Active: <i>Someone stole</i> my wallet. Passive: My wallet was stolen last week. B. Active: <i>Someone told</i> me that you like movies. Passive: I was told that you like movies.	The passive voice is used when we do not know the agent (A) or when we prefer not to mention the agent (B).
a. One person is chosen to receive the award. b. Oscar night has been televised since 1953.	The passive voice is used when the agent is obvious and doesn't need to be mentioned. a. It is obvious that the Academy chooses the winner. b. It is obvious that TV stations have televised Oscar night.
Compare Active (A) and Passive (P): A: <i>You can rent</i> DVDs at many stores. P: DVDs can be rented at many stores. A: <i>They sell</i> popcorn in movie theaters. P: Popcorn is sold in movie theaters.	In conversation, the active voice is often used with the impersonal subjects <i>people, you, we, or they</i> . In more formal speech and writing, the passive is used with no agent.

EXERCISE 4 Fill in the blanks with the passive voice of the verb in parentheses (). Choose an appropriate tense.

EXAMPLE Hollywood was built in the early 1900s.
(build)

- Most American movies _____ in Hollywood.
(make)
- Let's get some popcorn. It's fresh. It _____ right now.
(make)

(continued)

3. Movie listings _____ in the newspaper.
(can/find)
4. Children _____ to see some movies.
(not/allow)
5. Hurry! The winners _____ in ten minutes.
(announce)
6. In 1929, only fifteen Oscars _____.
(present)
7. Before 1941, the winners' names _____ in
newspapers the night before the ceremony.
(publish)
8. A new theater _____ near my house at this time.
(build)
9. We can't get into the movie theater because all the tickets
_____ already.
(sell)
10. Did you see the movie *Harry Potter*? Where _____ it
_____?
(film)
11. I went to the lobby to buy popcorn, and my seat _____.
(take)
12. No one knows why the award _____ "Oscar."
(call)
13. *Slumdog Millionaire* _____ as the best film of 2009.
(choose)
14. In a movie theater, coming attractions¹ _____
before the feature film begins.
(show)
15. Sound _____ to movies in 1927.
(add)
16. The Kodak Theatre, where the awards _____
each year, _____ in 2001.
(present)
(build)

¹Coming attractions are short previews of new movies. Theaters show coming attractions to get your interest in returning to the theater to see a new movie.