

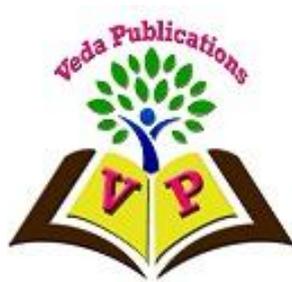


## THE EXPERIENCE OF TEACHING THE TRANSFORMATION OF VOICE

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### ABSTRACT



Teaching of voice is an important activity in a language class. By learning transformation of sentences in voice, the learners can use language effectively. It has, however, been noted that learners commit mistakes while transforming sentences either from active voice to passive voice or from passive voice to active voice. Usually, the mistakes are found in tenses, because the learners find it difficult to use appropriate verbs during the transformation. This paper finds out solutions to avoid mistakes in the transformation of sentences in voice.

**Keywords:** Transformation of Sentences, Verbs, Active Voice, Passive Voice.

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It has been noted that many learners commit mistakes in transforming sentences from active voice to passive voice or from passive voice to active voice. Though most students have the ability to answer well, a few students have used wrong

auxiliary verbs. As a result, tenses have been changed. For example, they use past tense instead of using present and use perfect tense instead of using past. The following questions and wrong responses of students are given in the following table.

S.No	Questions	Wrong Responses
1	He writes a letter	A letter was written by him
2	They discussed the problem.	The problem has been discussed by them

The same type of mistakes has been noted in almost every set of students. It has been found out that the students have been given sentence structures and

they have recited them. When they forget the structures, they use the auxiliary verbs differently. In this paper, it is suggested to use a step by step



process. It is like mathematics. The process can be introduced to the learners to avoid mistakes. The learners are instructed to follow the rules during the transformation of sentences.

#### THE STEPS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF VOICE FROM ACTIVE TO PASSIVE

The subject should be changed to object and object should be changed to subject. The new object should be preceded by the word 'by'. After instructing such rules for transformation, learners are instructed to write the past participle of whatever may be the main verb in the active voice. Then, an

#### FORMULA

Present Verb	Past Verb	Past Participle	Present Participle
<b>am</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>been</b>	<b>Being</b>
<b>is</b>			
<b>are</b>			
<b>be</b> (to be used as an equivalent be form verb for the present verb found after <b>will/shall</b> )	<b>were</b>		

Consider the following sentence.

Harsha sings a song.

The first step is to exchange the subject and object. **A song** sings **Harsha**. The new object is preceded by the word 'by'. **A song** sings **by Harsha**. Then, whatever may be the main verb (here, it is '**sings**'), it should be converted into past participle. **A song sung by Harsha**. The past participle is received from the present verb '**sings**'. As we have taken it from a present verb, an equivalent form of the 'be' verb should be used in front of the past participle. The present tense forms of 'be' are 'am', 'is' and 'are'. An appropriate form of 'be' should be used in front of the past participle and the verb should agree with the new subject. So the final answer is **A song is sung by Harsha**. Any sentence can be converted into passive voice by using this step by step method.

By using the step by step process, explanation can be given why four tense-aspect combinations do not have passive voice. The following examples can be considered for the same.

appropriate form of the 'be' verb will have to be used in front of the past participle and the form of the 'be' verb should be equivalent to the main verb i.e., if the main verb is present, a present form of 'be' should be used. In simple future, the word 'be' should be used as there is no possibility of using an equivalent present form of 'be' after will/shall. That is, 'is' or 'are' cannot be used after will or shall.

Using the step by step method is like solving a mathematical problem. The **formula** for transformation of sentences from active to passive voice is given below:

They will be **discussing** the problem (future continuous).

The verb can be converted into '**being discussed**'  
The final answer will be 'the problem will **be being** discussed'.

Because of the repetition of forms of 'be' ('be', 'being'), this sentence structure is not in use. Though two different forms of 'be' are acceptable (the problem **is being** discussed by them), the same form of 'be' cannot be used (the problem will **be being** discussed). This is also applicable to present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous and future perfect continuous sentences.

When transforming a sentence from passive voice to active voice, the past participle and nearby 'be' form are to be compressed to form a single verb. For example, '**being**' and '**written**' will be compressed as '**writing**'. The word 'by' should be removed and all the steps involved in transforming sentences from active voice to passive voice are reversed.



Example

The project has **been submitted** by the team = submitted

The team has **submitted** the project

The novel **is written** by Raj = write/writes  
(suitable form of verb can be used according to the new subject)

Raj **writes** the novel

It has been found that the process is fruitful as there have been no mistakes from the learners. This method of transformation has been taught by the writer of this paper for more than nine years. It is an additional way of transforming sentences in voice. Students can be familiar with this way or formal way of transformation. So, it is concluded that the learners can be introduced these steps for transformation of sentences in voice to avoid mistakes.

It is also noted that transforming interrogative sentences is also somewhat difficult to the learners. In this context, their confusion regarding voice and reported speech comes to the fore. They usually change the tense of the sentences. To avoid mistakes, the following instructions are given:

First the question words/ Interrogative pronouns can be removed from the question. Then the sentence can be converted into a statement. Now the statement can be converted into passive voice easily. Then the auxiliary verb should be taken back to frame a question. After this, the question word will be added.

Example

How did he solve this problem?

Did he solve this problem?

He solved this problem.

This problem was solved by him

Was this problem solved by him?

How was this problem solved by him?

Based on experience, the problem in transforming sentences in voice has been solved. It has been a fruitful effort. Once students learn the above techniques, the learners will not commit any mistakes. When a particular student learns the techniques easily, he/she will be motivated to teach other learners.

It is concluded that learners can be introduced these steps for transformation of sentences in voice to avoid mistakes. They can also be taught within a short period of time.

#### REFERENCE

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