



**Paco had dreamt with this journey
before: Florida is sometimes attacked
by typhoons.**



Florida is sometimes attacked by typhoons



Use of the passive voice

We use the Passive voice when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

That famous painting was stolen.

In the example above, the important fact is that the famous painting was stolen. I do not know, however, who did it.

Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than in active voice, as the following example shows:

A terrible mistake was made and provoked an accident.

In this case, I focus on the fact that a mistake was made, but I do not blame anyone.



Form of the passive voice

Subject + finite form of *to be* + Past Participle
A book about London was written by Dickens.

When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, we have to take into account the following:

- 1) the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence .
- 2) the finite form of the verb is changed (*to be* + past participle).
- 3) the subject of the active sentence becomes the object of the passive sentence (or it is dropped).



The by-phrase

We are normally not interested in the "doer" of an action in a passive sentence. When we want to mention the person who does the action, we use the preposition **by**. The whole phrase is called by-agent in English.

My grandfather built this house (ACTIVE)
This house was built by my grandfather (PASSIVE)

When we do not know who was the "doer" of the action, we use someone or somebody in the active sentence. We leave out these words in the passive sentence.

Someone took my tools (ACTIVE)
My tools were taken (PASSIVE)

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The printing press

Newspapers are usually divided into two main categories: quality press and popular press.

Quality press is also known as broadsheet papers. Quality newspapers are large format newspapers that report news in depth, often with serious tone and higher level language. News is dominated by national and international events, politics, business, with less emphasis on celebrities and gossip.

On the contrary, a very simple definition of tabloids came from the British journalist John Ryan, who said that a tabloid is a journalistic product that primarily deals with three S's: scandal, sex and sports.



The Passive in the journalistic style

In order to make a publication consistent in style, and therefore professional, it is necessary to learn proper journalistic style. A writer or editor must know when to capitalize a title and when to abbreviate it, when to write out numbers rather than use figures, how to write dates and times, and how to be consistent in reporting sports stories.

The passive voice is sometimes overused in the journalistic style. Here you can see some examples:

No photos of oiled animals, alive or dead, have been allowed in Dutch Harbor, where small numbers of carcasses have been delivered almost daily in sealed boxes. Coast Guard representatives have said it simply is a matter of controlled information flow, that the wreck is being handled similar to a wildfire emergency or a flood.

Rescued live animals can be photographed in Anchorage, wildlife officials noted.