

**SPANISH 101**  
**PASSIVE VOICE IN**  
**SPANISH:**  
**PASSIVE VOICE**  
**WITH SE & SER**



# ACTIVE VS PASSIVE VOICE IN SPANISH

## ACTIVE VOICE

Keeps the attention on the subject.



Yo leí este libro.  
I read this book.

## PASSIVE VOICE

Drives attention to the direct object.



El libro fue leído por mí.  
The book was read by me.

# ACTIVE VS PASSIVE VOICE IN SPANISH

## ACTIVE VOICE



Cristóbal Colón **descubrió** América.  
Christopher Columbus **discovered** America.

## PASSIVE VOICE



América **fue descubierta** por Cristóbal Colón.  
América **was discovered** by Christopher Columbus.

# CONJUGATE THE PASSIVE VOICE IN SPANISH

## SER + PAST PARTICIPLE

- The subject and object are reversed.
- The verb is conjugated based on the direct object.
- Keeping the subject is optional.

Los departamentos **son rentados**.  
The apartments **are rented**.

## SE + VERB + OBJECT

- Only singular or plural conjugation.
- The subject is not included.

**Se rentan** departamentos.  
Apartments for rent.

# EXAMPLES OF THE PASSIVE VOICE IN SPANISH

Example with active voice

Yo **quebré** las jarras.  
I **broke** the pitchers.

Mis hermanos **venderán** el carro.  
My brothers **will sell** the car.

Example with passive voice

Las jarras **fueron quebradas** por mí. The  
pitchers **were broken** by me.

El carro **será vendido** por mis hermanos.  
The car **will be sold** by my brothers.

**Note:** Notice that when changing these from active to passive voice, we must maintain the same spanish verb tense.

# KEY POINTS: PASSIVE VOICE IN SPANISH

- **Active voice** focuses on the subject, whereas the Spanish **passive voice** drives attention to the object.
- In Spanish, the passive voice **can be formed** with *ser + past participle*.
- With this structure, the direct object **takes** the place of the subject. This allows you to emphasize the person or thing receiving the action.
- When used in the passive voice, **Spanish past participles** have gender and plural form.
- The passive voice in Spanish can also **be formed** with the pronoun se.
- Passive voice with *se* **omits** the subject and only has a **singular** or **plural** conjugation.

# LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Passive Voice in Spanish: Passive Voice with Se & Ser](#)

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