

## VOICE

- **Active:** When the subject is the agent or doer of the action.
- **Passive:** When the subject is the patient, target or the undergoer (receptor) of the action.

### 1- Semantic and lexical differences:

-Few people read many books.

-Many books are read by a few people.

Here the meaning changes because we are using quantity expressions.

### 2- There are some cases in which using the “passive” is not possible:

-Mike has a car.

-A car is had by Mike.\*

### 3- Some verbs are only found in passive voice:

-Freddie Mercury (Farrokh Bomi Bulsara) was born in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

-Some woman bore Freddie Mercury in Zanzibar.

### 4- Sometimes you can use two versions of the same sentence for passive voice:

-Marcus bought his son a Football ball.

-The son was bought a Football ball by Marcus/his father.

-A football ball was bought by the father of the son/by Marcus.

### 5- Sometimes some sentences look like “passive”. But it is just a coincidence. In some cases it is Copula BE and an adjective:

-Hoyo Soplador is located in San Andrés.

You don't say, “Hoyo Soplador” is located in San Andrés by the President.

## KINDS OF PASSIVE SENTENCES:

### - Simple passives with BE...-EN

*Harry was hit by Louis.*

More than one interpretation.

### - Simple passives with GET...-EN

*John got hurt in an accident.*

*Obama got elected.*

Only 1 interpretation.

### - Complex passives with BE ...-EN (Completely impersonal)

*Portman is thought to be brilliant.*

*The man is considered to be a hero.*

### - Complex passives with HAVE ...NP...-EN

Susan had her car stolen yesterday

**Ambiguity:**

She was a victim.

She arranged to steal her car. (Causative sentences)

**Ambiguity:**

The door was closed at 7 o'clock:

**Meanings:**

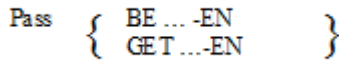
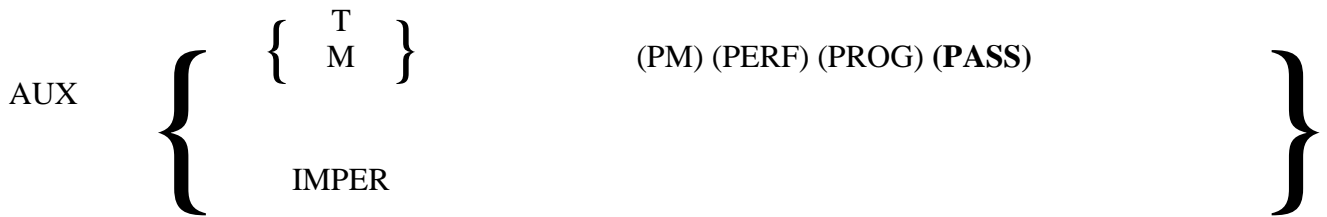
Someone closed it at 7 o'clock.

It had been closed before seven o'clock, maybe it was closed at 6 o'clock.

The door got closed at 7 o'clock.

**Meaning (only 1):**

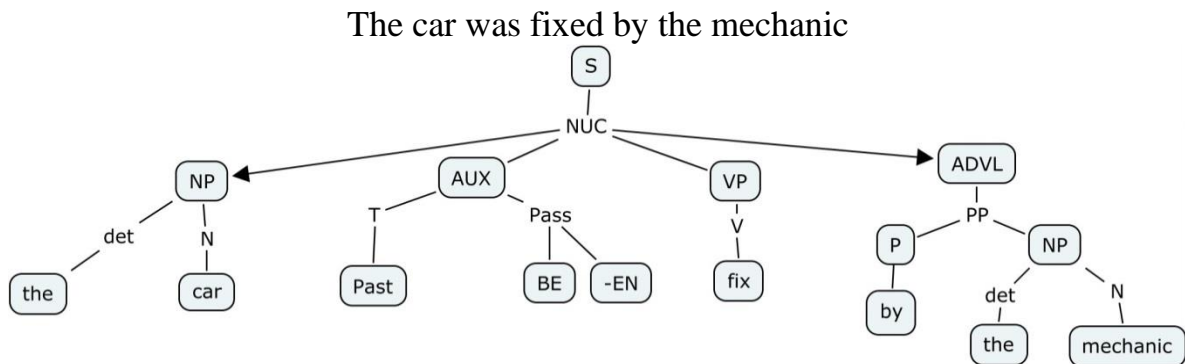
Someone closed it at 7 o'clock.



In Passive sentences, the phrases introduced by the preposition "by" are considered Adverbials (Prepositional Phrases)

*The car was fixed by the mechanic* (By the mechanic is a prepositional phrase)

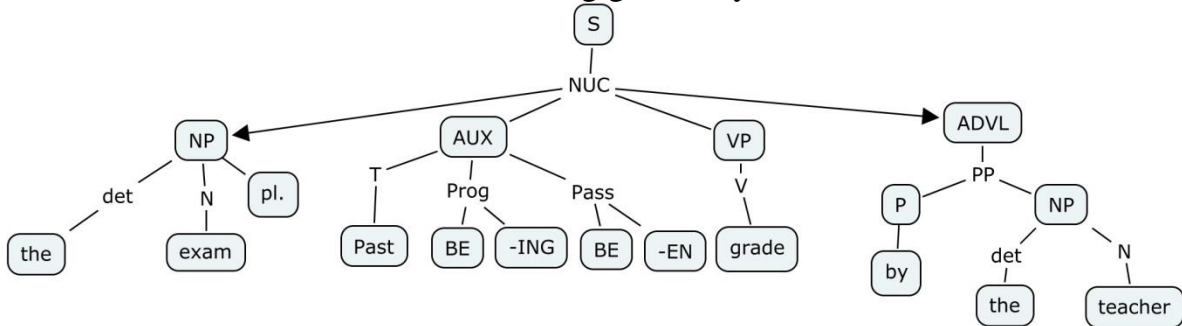
*The exams were being graded by the teacher* (By the teacher is a prepositional phrase)



OB: the car past BE -EN fix by the mechanic

AA (2x): the car past + BE -EN +fix by the mechanic  
 SVA/MR: The car was fixed by the mechanic.

The exams were being graded by the teacher



OB: the exam pl. past BE -ING BE -EN grade by the teacher

AA (4x): the exam+ pl. past + BE -ING + BE -EN+grade by the teacher

SVA/MR: The exams were being graded by the teacher.