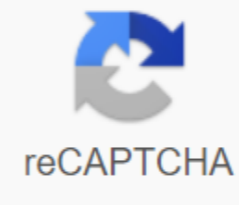




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## German passive exercises pdf

Passive voice has two forms in German grammar. The process passive conjugation with the verb werden and emphasizes the action. Statal passive conjugates with the verb sein and emphasizes the condition. Who or what caused the action or condition, or not important, is unknown or assumed to be general knowledge. Find out when to use a passive voice in German with our simple online lessons and passive conjugation tables. In exercise, you can practice what you have learned. We use process passive when we want to emphasize the action (What happens?). Who causes the action is irrelevant or unknown. Example: Ein Mann wurde angefahren. The man was hit. Dem Verletzten wurde ein Verband angelegt. A bandage was applied to the patient. Jetzt wird der Mann ins Krankenhaus gebracht. The man has now been taken to hospital. The most important information here is that someone was run over, bandaged, and is being taken to hospital. Who hit the man, used the bandage, and takes him to the hospital, no matter whether or not. We use a static passive to describe the state (situation) after the action. Example: Er ist verletzt. He's injured. During the action the man was injured - now he is wounded. To conjugate process passivity we need a werden form and past participle of a full verb. The rule of constructing sentences in a passive procedural is: the subject - the form werden (object) - past statal passive participation to conjugate the statal passive we need a form of sein and past participle full verb. Rule for building proposals in process passive: the subject is a form of sein and past participle. We use an active form to emphasize who or what performs the action. Example: Der Lehrer erklärte uns das Passive. The teacher explained passive to us. We use passive to emphasize the action itself. Who or what performs the action often remains in passive sentences. Example: Das Passive wurde uns (vom Lehrer) erklärt. The passive was explained to us (by the teacher). Verbs that cannot form passive verbs without an accusatory object cannot form passive. Some of these verbs: verbs, the current ideal form of which takes sein (e.g. fahren) Example: Ich fuhr selber nach Berlin. I went to Berlin myself. Ich wurde selber nach Berlin gefahren. I was being led to Berlin alone. Passive is impossible because I was driving myself. But: Fahren can also be used with haben and accusatory object. In this case, a passive proposal is possible. Example: Meine Vater fuhr mich Berlin. My father took me to Berlin. Passive: Ich wurde (von meinem Vater) Berlin gefahren. I was taken to Berlin (my father), reflexive verbs Example: Ich habe mich versteckt. I hid. (Ich bin mich versteckt worden. other verbs without an accusatory object: Er schlief. (Er wird geschlafen. But: In conversation, we often use impersonal passive (see exceptions), for example, as an order. Example: Jetzt wird geschlafen! Now it's time to sleep! Some verbs that have an accusatory object cannot be used in a passive voice. For example, haben, kennen, essen, es gibt. Example: Ich habe einen Hund. I have a dog. (Ein Hund wird gehabt.) Ich kenne die Frau. I know a woman. (Die Frau wird gekannt.) Ich weiß die Antwort. I know the answer. (Die Antwort wird gewusst.) There are many museums. (Viele Museen werden gegeben.) Turning Active into Processal Passive When we turn the active into a process passive, the following things happen: the accusatory object becomes the subject. The theme is not included or only included as a von (dative). The verb is used in the past participle form, and we also need the help of the verb werden in its marital form. An example of all times: Exceptions only an accusatory object can become a subject. If there is a dative object that needs to be moved to the first position in the active offer, it remains in dative. Active: Man legte dem Verletzten einen Verband an. Someone put a bandage on the victim. The victim was wearing a bandage. Active offers without an object can also be passive (impersonal passive). To do this, we use a personal prolation es or adverb modifier. Example: Wir tanzten (gestern) viel. We danced a lot (yesterday). - Es/Gestern wurde viel getanzt. (Yesterday) There was a lot of dancing. Our online German language exercises will help you learn and practice grammar rules online. To make sure you understand the right answers, our answer keys offer simple explanations as well as handy tips and tricks. Passive - Exercises Passiv - Susacbyjungen Become a member of Lingolia Plus to access these additional exercises. Passive - Vorgangspassiv Presens (Partizip II einsetzen) de B1 Passive - Vorgangssiv Presens (Setze Bilden) de B1 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Presens (Active in Passiv Umwandeln) de B1 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Presens (Satzbau) de B2 Passiv Presens (Trennbare Verben) de B2 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Presens (non-national Verben) de B2 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Presens (trennbar/unrennbar) Verben) de B2 Passiv - Inorgangssiv Presens (unpers'lich) de B2 Passiv - Inorgangssiv Presens (unpers' 2) de B2 Passiv - Vorangspassiv Preteritum (1) de B2 Passiv - Inorgangspassiv Preteritum (1) de B2 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Perfekt de B2 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Plusquamperfekt de C1 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Futur I de C1 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv Futur II de C1 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv (Active - Pass, Alle Seiten) de C1 Passiv - Vorgangspassiv mit Dativobjekt de C1 - Vorgangspassiv (Umwandlung möglich?) de C1 Passiv - Sustanspassiv (Preteritum) de B2 Passiv - Sustanspassiv (Preteritum) de B2 Passiv - Sustanspassiv (Redewendungen) de C1 A1 Beginner A2 Elementary B1 Intermediate B2 Upper Intermediate C1 Advanced Grammar Verbs Passive Passive - Exercises Grammar Tense Verbs Conjugator Nouns and Articles Of Pronouncing Adjective Offers Offers Structure Vocabulary Numbers, Dates, Time is easy to confuse the words Idioms Seasons Celebration in the City Body Parts Sports Travel Vocabulary Calendar Culture Holidays Book and E-Book Paperback E-Book Help Glossary Passive Voice is not actually used very much in German. If you see it, it will most likely be used more in something that appears in writing than in the suggestion someone is talking to you. So if you plan to have or want to read a book printed in German or maybe a German daily newspaper, you better get straight as the passive voice works. It is very important to understand that there is a difference between using time and using a passive voice. If you want to be able to use a passive voice with German verbs, you need to know the correct wording. For example, a sentence in a passive voice does not always determine who is doing the action, and instead it can use a phrase like von John (John), or if it is an inanimate object it can say a dachshund den wind (in the wind). Grammar exercises Use a passive voice to emphasize the patient (the thing they are acting on) rather than the agent (the item acts) in the sentence, making it the subject of the sentence. When the action is happening right now, use a real tense passive voice. The sentence in the present passive is built as it is in the Germans: the patient wird preposition agent past verb participle. The active offer of Ich schreibe es (I write it), for example, becomes Es wird von mir geschrieben (It is written by me) in the present passive. In this exercise, please turn active offers into passive offers. Click the Send button to complete it. Our system will automatically correct errors and show answers. Exercises Learn German and German lessons and exercises - #45251 Put test in passive form. Twitter Share German exercise Passive voice created by tati71 with test builder. More lessons and exercises from tati71 Click here to see the current stats of this German test Please log in to keep your progress. End of free exercises to learn German: Passive voice A free German training to learn German. Other German exercises on the same theme : Passive voice All our lessons and exercises Learning German and German lessons Exercise - German #9640 Active voice test (Aktiv) or passive voice (Passiv) ? Twitter Share German exercise Passive and active voice, created anonymously with test builder. Click here to see the current current This German test Please log in to keep your progress. End of free exercise to learn German: Passive and active voice A free German exercises to learn German. Other German exercises on the same topic : Passive voice All our lessons and exercises Passive is used if the emphasis is on the action that is performed, rather than on the agent (i.e. the one who performs the action). This can happen in any context and at any level of formality: sometimes I want to say that Benz invented a gasoline car (active), sometimes I want to say that a gasoline car was invented in 1885 (passive). Sometimes I get to say that the Lions made the Packers look silly (active), but a lot of the time I have to admit that the Lions were kicking (passive). However, there are some factors that make it more likely for you to see passive, and they include: the agent is unknown, for example, if a crime was committed, but it is not known who made it euphemisms of various kinds, such as politicians say taxes were raised, not I raised taxes. Reports on scientific experiments you are more likely to see passive in a formal context than in informal contexts in English, writing teachers strongly encourage their students to use an active voice in order to make their writing to be more direct, strong and readable. This is also the case in German, but to a lesser extent. Click here for a more detailed explanation of the use of passive Passive formed in German, combining the appropriate conjugated form of werden, which in itself means to become with the past participle main verb. To change the voltage of your passive sentence, change the voltage of Werden. Note how the next table only changes the shapes of werden as time changes: Pr'sens/Present Ich werde festgenommen. Du wirst dmonisiert. Der Mull wird Kanada catapult. Die Muse Werden gefangen I (be) arrested. You're being demonized. Debris was catapulted to Canada. The mice are being caught. Perfekt/Perfect Ich bin festgenommen worden. Du bist demonisiert worden. Der Mull ist Kanada katapultiert worden. Die muse sin gefangen worden I was arrested. You've been demonized. Debris was catapulted to Canada. The mice were caught. Preteritum / Simple past Ich wurde festgenommen. Etc. Futur / Future Ich werde festgenommen Werden. Etc. Plusquamperfekt / Past Perfect Ich war festgenommen worden. Etc. I was arrested. Etc. Click here for a full spreadsheet and more information on how to form statements in passive. Modal verbs are always used with the infinitive verb they accompany. This is also the case in a passive pattern that you will see for passive designs involving modal verb (conjugated) - past participation of the main verb and werden (in infinitive) Although other others possible, you usually just have to deal with two times involving modal verbs in passive: present and (simple) past. Past participle and werden infinitive in bold style throughout the table below to help you recognize the pattern. Presens/Present Ich soll festgenommen werden. Du muell Mousse Canada catapult Verdun. Die Muse Gyeannen Hefangen Werden. I should be arrested. You want to be demonized. Debris should be catapulted to Canada. Mice can be caught. Vergangenheit/Past Ich sollte festgenommen werden. Du wulst demonisiert Verdun. Der Mullah Musste Canada catapult Verdun. Die Muse Connten gefangen Werden. I should have been arrested. You wanted to be demonized. Debris had to be catapulted to Canada. Mice can be caught. Often the point of using passive is to avoid the agent's statement, i.e. the one who performed the action. But sometimes you want to coax the agent into a passive sentence. When you do, use a by background, or sometimes a durch (roughly matches with help in this context) or mit (roughly matches use in this context). If in doubt, you should always choose a background that is rarely wrong. Ich werde systematisch von Idioten verfolgt. I'm systematically harassed by idiots. Faust wurde von Goethe gesriben. Faust was written by Goethe. Das Tierheim wird durch Spenden finanziert. The animal shelter is funded by donations. 75% aller neuen Wohngebude Werden mit Gas geheizt. 75% of all new residential buildings are heated (used) by gas. The grammatical subject of a passive sentence is the person or thing with which the action is done: Der (not den) Pudding wird gegessen. Even though you would say Ich esse den Pudding in an active voice, to express the same thing. Since the dative pretext of the background is usually used for the state agent, the agent is usually in dative if it appears in a passive sentence at all: Der Pudding wird von World gegessen. Sometimes a passive sentence will not have a grammatical subject, or just a pacifier subject es. This is called impersonal passive. The subject in anonymized passive designs is always assumed by default to be the third person of the singular, in other words, if the passive sentence has no grammatical object (nothing in the nominal for the conjugated verb to agree with), then the conjugated verb will automatically be in the third person of the only one. World wird Geholfen. They're helping me. Note that the world is dative and therefore cannot be the subject of a verb: the verb is always in par. Thus the verb is in the third person the only default, not in the singular number of the first Thus, the verb Not verde. Sber uns wurde nicht gesprochen. They didn't talk about us. Again, uns is accusatory and therefore cannot be the subject of a verb. Thus, the verb is wurde, not wurden. Davon ist mir nichts gesagt worden. They didn't tell me anything about it. Again, neither davon nor peace can be the subject of a verb. An important type of impersonal passive design is passive with a dummy subject es. It is difficult to translate elegantly into English, but the meaning will usually be obvious: the activity described by the main verb is done. If the sentence contains an adverb or preposition phrase, it will have the same basic structure, but without es: Es wird getanzt. There are dances that happen/People dance (for example, at a party in the apartment above you while you are trying to sleep). Es wird gefeiert. There is a party going on/people partying. Heute Abend wird gefeiert. There's a party tonight. Auf der Party wird getanzt.

There is dancing going on at the party / People dancing at the party. In der Deutschklasse wird kein Franz'sisch gesprochen. French is not allowed in German class. The true passive we discussed, which is formed by combining werden with the past participle verb, emphasizes the fact that the action becomes done for someone or something. There is another form called statal passive, which is formed by combining sein with the past participation of the verb. This is used to describe the state in which something is located (hence the name of Statal), as opposed to the action that is performed on it. Here are two examples: Die Tur Wird ge'ffnet. The door (time) is open. When you read this, you imagine a door in motion: a closed door opens. Die Tur and Geffnet. The door is open. When you read this, you imagine a door that is in a position to be open. Das Steak Wird gebraten. (true passive) Steak (to be) fried. When you read this, you imagine a steak sizzling away in a pan, and you feel the joyful enjoyment of a predator, or the vegan's wrath at the abomination in the process. Das Steak ist gebraten. (Statal passive) steak fried. When you read this, you picture a steak that sits there, being fried, and ready to eat. Carnivores salivate, knowing it's time to dig in, and the vegan feels the despair of another abomination that has irreversibly come true. It is important to note, especially about the second example is that the English language cannot distinguish between true and static passive in how German can, since only one has a verb can be used to form passive in English. So in English it's just out of context that you know whether steak refers to a steak sizzling in a saucepan, or a steak that has been fried and sits on a plate waiting for a salivating predator to come and eat it. The German makes a distinction by using werden's past participle when the action takes place, and sein' past participle when the action was completed. When you see the verb werden in the sentence, there are now (i.e. now that we have learned passive) three possibilities for what it does there: werden itself means becoming werden and infinitive indicates the future of werden and past participle indicates passive voice Click here for more information about it. Watch out for the following common pitfalls: Not all active statements have a passive analogue: Most active statements can be converted into passive statements by discarding the agent (or reissuing it using the background): Hertz entdeckte (detected) Radiowellen - Radiowellen wurden (von Hertz) entdeckt; Freud ver'ffentlichte (published) 1900 die Traumdeutung Interpretations of Dreams Die Traumdeutungwurde 1900 (von Freud) ver'ffentlicht. In a significant number of cases, however, it will be impossible: Ich habe geschlafen. I was asleep. Ich bin geschlafen worden./Von mir ist geschlafen worden. I was asleep./Sleeping was made by me. Their Byle Mich. I'm in a hurry. Ich werde beeilt./Von mir wird sich beeilt. I hurried up./The rush up is made by me. This usually applies to non-transient verbs (verbs that cannot take a direct object) and reflexive verbs, for example, but it is difficult to come up with a simple and comprehensive rule. If you think about the meaning of passive statements you are trying to form, however, you should be able to recognize when you are trying to put something in passive that cannot actually be put into passive. Mixing active and passive voices There are two ways in which this error usually gets made: when creating a passive statement either from scratch or based on an appropriate active voice statement, one often has an active state of affairs in mind. The result is a temptation (1) to mistakenly keep the topic of an active statement (agent) as the subject of a passive statement, although the point of creating a passive statement is precisely to either omit the agent or publish it using the background (or sometimes durch, etc.): Active statement: Hertz entdeckte Radiowellen Hertz discovered radio waves. Proper passive statement: Radiowellen wurden (von Hertz) entdeckt. Radio waves were detected (Hertz). Wrong passive statement: Hertz wurde Radiowellen entdeckt. Hertz was found to have radio waves. Active statement: Ich habe eine Warnung sber problem mit dem Passiv geschrieben. I wrote a warning about passive problems. Correct passive statement: Eine Warnung zber probleme mit dem Passiv ist geschrieben worden. Warning of problems with passive was written. Wrong passive statement: Ich bin eine Warnung sber Problem mit dem Passiv geschrieben worden. I'm warning about problems with passive writing. (2) It is a mistake to hold a direct object of an active statement as a direct object of a passive statement, although the point of creating a passive statement is precisely to turn a direct object of an active statement into a subject of a passive statement, i.e. to place it in a nominal and conjugate verb agree with it: Active statement: Felix Wankel hat in den 50er Jaten den den ersten. Felix Vankel built the first rotary engine in the 1950s. Correct passive statement: Der erste Wankelmotor ist in den 50er Jahren (background Felix Wankel) gebaut worden. The first rotary engine was built in the 1950s (Felix Vankel). Wrong passive statement: Den Ersten Wankelmotor ist in den 50er Jahren (background Felix Wankel) gebaut worden. (translation would be as stated above) Active statement: Mein Freund hat mih schamlos ausgenutzt. My (boy) friend exploited me shamelessly. Correct passive statement: Ich bin von Meinem Freund schamlos ausgenutzt worden. I was used shamelessly by my (boy) friend. Wrong passive statement: Mich ist/bin von meinem Freund schamlos ausgenutzt worden. (translation would be as stated above) Avoid the temptation to make a conjugated verb in a passive statement to agree with the dative object in the statement. Remember that if a verb agrees with a noun or proun, it is a noun or a proun should be in par. Here's a few cautionary examples. In each case, the subject of passive sentence in bold (if it is), and dative object in italics. World bin / ist geholfen worden. They helped me. Ihnen sind/ist geholfen worden. They were helped. Uns werden/wird ein Buch gegeben. They give us a book. Uns Verdun tswei bye bucher Hegeben. They give us two books. Dem Baby Darf/Durfen Kane Nysse Hegeben Verdun. You can't give a child nuts. Den Babis Mussen/Muss mer Milch Gegeben Verdun. Children need to be given more milk. Tenses Five suggestions on what has been done by the government appear here at different times. Feel the different times in a passive voice, comparing sentences with the appropriate time in each case. The weiter button will allow you to cycle through five questions until you feel that you have got enough practice. Conjugation werden The practice of conjugation werden in different times of passive voice. The weiter button will allow you to cycle through five questions until you feel that you have got enough practice. Cann man das Sagen? Not every active statement has a passive analogue (see the first paragraph under common pitfalls on this page). Feel it by deciding which of the statements in this exercise are legitimate statements in passive Which ones don't. Was Passiert in Cologne? Practice putting sentences at different times in passive. This is a convenient format in order to allow you to practice passive forms at different times, but please don't mislead this exercise format by thinking that each active offering has a passive equivalent (or vice versa), or that it doesn't matter whether you express an idea in an active or passive voice. Hopefully the rest of this page has made it clear that no matter! True Passive vs. Statal Passive Decide whether true passive or static passive is appropriate in the following situations. Sigaretten This short paragraph about changing German cigarette law uses werden twice. Read the text and answer questions about these Werden uses and the text as a whole. Passive is used if the focus is on the action being performed rather than on the agent (i.e. who is doing the action). This can happen in any context and at any level of formality: sometimes I want to say that Benz invented a gasoline car (active), sometimes I want to say that a gasoline car was invented in 1885 (passive). Sometimes I get to say that the Lions made the Packers look silly (active), but a lot of the time I have to admit that the Lions were kicking (passive). However, there are some factors that make it more likely for you to see passive, and they include: the agent is unknown, for example, if a crime was committed, but it is not known who made it euphemisms of various kinds, such as politicians say taxes were raised, not I raised taxes. Reports on scientific experiments where the use of passive creates the illusion of objectivity Stylistic choice. So you're more likely to see a passive in a formal context than in informal contexts, more likely to see it in newspaper articles than in everyday speech, more likely to hear it from a pedantic professor than from a child who is currently ticketing for skateboarding, etc. This is also the case in German, but to a lesser extent. The formation of passive Werden - Past Participle Passive is formed in German by combining the appropriate conjugated form of werden, which in itself means to become with the past participle of the main verb. To change the voltage of your passive sentence, change the voltage of Werden. Note how the next table only changes the shapes of werden as time changes: Pr'sens/Present Ich werde festgenommen. Du Virst dumonisert. Der Mull Vird Canada catapult. Die Muse Werden gefangen I (be) arrested. You Garbage Garbage Canada. The mice are being caught. It's perfect that I was arrested. You've been demonized. Debris was catapulted to Canada. The mice were caught, I was arrested. You've been demonized. Debris was catapulted to Canada. The mice were caught, I was arrested. You've been demonized. Debris was catapulted to Canada. The mice were caught, I was arrested. You're being demonized. Debris will be catapulted to Canada. The mice will get caught, I'll be arrested. You're being demonized. Debris will be catapulted to Canada. The mice will be caught. Plusquamperfekt / Past Perfect I was arrested. You've been demonized. Debris has been catapulted to Canada. The mice were caught, I was arrested. You've been demonized. Debris was catapulted to Canada. The mice were caught, I was arrested. The following table summarizes the main points regarding the formation of the last part. This is important because each passive statement includes the past participle verb (arrested, demonized, discovered and caught in the table above): strong verbs of weak verbs regular mixed verbs Normal verbs You saw / ate / Slept you ran / left / Died you laughed / said / worked you wandered / jumped you brought / known / Thoughts / Separable Prefix Of Verbs You took with you / watched TV / Took you moved / Left / You bought / sleeps you bought / you woke up/ Inseparable Prefix Verbs You understood / started / You ran / You found / Sold / translated You are inflamed explosion in fire You realized that burned -ieren Verbs you studied / discussed / tried you blew / Collidepassive and Modalsal Modal Verbs are always used with the infinitive verb to accompany them. This is also the case in a passive pattern that you will see for passive designs involving modals: the modal verb (conjuged) - past the participation of the main verb (in the infinitive) Although other times are possible, you usually just have to deal with two times that include modal verbs in passive: the present and (simple) the past. Past participle and infinitive in bold type across the table below to help you recognize the pattern. Present/present I should be arrested. You want to be demonized. Debris should be catapulted to Canada. Mice can be caught. I should have been arrested. I should be arrested. You want to be demonized. Teh must be catapulted to Canada. Mice can be caught. Vergangenheit/Past Ich sollte festgenommen werden. Du Volst demonisert Verdun. Der Mullah Musste Canada catapult Verdun. Die Muse Connten gefangen Werden. I should have been arrested. You wanted to be demonized. Debris had to be catapulted to Canada. Mice can be caught. (i.e. it was possible to catch mice, there would be no possibility to catch them) Stating the agent often, the meaning of using passive is to avoid the application of the agent, i.e. the one who performed the action. But sometimes you want to coax the agent into a passive sentence. When you do, use a by background, or sometimes a durch (roughly matches with help in this context) or mit (roughly matches use in this context). If in doubt, you should always choose a background that is rarely wrong. Ich Werde systematisch von Idioten verfolgt. I'm systematically harassed by idiots. Faust Wurde von Goethe gesriben. Faust was written by Goethe. Das Tierheim wird durch Spenden finanziert. The animal shelter is funded by donations. 75% aller neuen Wohngeb'ude Werden mit Gas geheizt. 75% of all new residential buildings are heated (used) by gas. The grammatical subject of a passive sentence is the person or thing with which the action is done: Der (not den) Pudding Vird Hegessen. Even though you would say Ich esse den Pudding in an active voice, to express the same thing. Since the dative pretext of the background is usually used for the state agent, the agent is usually in dative if it appears in a passive sentence at all: Der Pudding Wird von World gegessen. Impersonal Passive Sometimes passive sentence will not have a grammatical subject, or just a pacifier theme es. This is called impersonal passive. The subject in anonymized passive designs is always assumed by default to be the third person of the singular, in other words, if the passive sentence has no grammatical object (nothing in the nominal for the conjured verb to agree with), then the conjured verb will automatically be in the third person of the only one. World Vird Geholfen. They're helping me. Note that the world is dative and therefore cannot be the subject of a verb: the verb is always in par. Thus, the verb is in the 3rd person the only default, not in the only number of the first person. So the verb wird, not werde. Sber uns wurde nicht gesprochen. They didn't talk about us. Again, uns is accusatory and therefore cannot be the subject of a verb. Thus, the verb is wurde, not wurden. Davon ist mir nichts gesagt worden. They didn't tell me anything about it. Again, neither davon nor peace can be the subject of a verb. An important type of impersonal passive design is passive with a dummy subject es. This is it is difficult to translate elegantly into English, but the meaning will usually be obvious: the activity described by the main verb is done. If the sentence contains an adverb or preposition phrase, it will have the same basic structure, but without es: Es wird getanzt. There are dances that happen/People dance (for example, at a party in the apartment above you while you are trying to sleep). Es Vird Gefeiert. There is a party going on/people partying. Heute Abend wird gefeiert. There's a party tonight. Auf der Party wird getanzt. There is dancing going on at the party / People dancing at the party. In der Deutschklasse wird kein Franz'sisch gesprochen. It is not allowed to speak French in the German class. True Passive vs. Statal Passive True Passive we discussed, which is formed by combining werden with the past participle verb, emphasizes the fact that the action becomes done for someone or something. There is another form called statal passive, which is formed by combining sein with the past participation of the verb. This is used to describe the state in which something is located (hence the name of Statal), as opposed to the action that is performed on it. Here are two examples: Die Tur Wird ge'ffnet. The door (time) is open. When you read this, you imagine a door in motion: a closed door opens. Die Tur and Geffnet. The door is open. When you read this, you imagine a door that is in a position to be open. Das Steak Wird gebraten. (true passive) Steak (to be) fried. When you read this, you imagine a steak sizzling away in a pan, and you feel the joyful enjoyment of a predator, or the vegan's wrath at the abomination in the process. Das Steak ist gebraten. (Statal passive) steak fried. When you read this, you picture a steak that sits there, being fried, and ready to eat. Carnivores salivate, knowing it's time to dig in, and the vegan feels the despair of another abomination that has irreversibly come true. It is important to note, especially about the second example is that the English language cannot distinguish between true and static passive in how German can, since only one has a verb can be used to form passive in English. So in English it's only out of context that you know whether the steak roasted refers to the steak sizzling in the pan, or the steak that has been fried and sits on a plate waiting for the salivating of the carnivorous to come and eat it. The German makes a distinction by using werden's past participle when the action takes place, and sein' past participle when the action was completed. Summary of use of werden Note: This section does not mention Werden's use Subjunctive (in particular, the infinitive of wuerde). Click here to go to the subjunctive inclination ii page if you want to consider it. There are three possibilities if the sentence contains the verb werden in indicative: (a) Become If the position does not contain another verb, Werden is used as an independent verb. In this case it means to become: Ach, wie klein du geworden bist! My, how little you've become! Try this on growing children Was the richest du Einmal Verdun? What would you like to become one day? (b) Future If a position contains another verb in the infinitive, werden is used as an auxiliary to indicate the future time. Note that another verb may be a modal, or modal infinitive (third example), or it may even be werden itself (see second example). Mer and Mer Leute Werden Computer Kaufen. More and more people will buy computers. Computer werden immer besser Werden. Computers will get better and better. Eines Tages werden Computer uns Deutsch beibringen K'nnen. One day computers will be able to teach us German. If the sentence contains haben or sein in the infinitive along with past participation, Werden is used as an auxiliary to indicate the future perfect time (what will happen). Don't confuse this with the option (c) below, where werden's past participle (but not the infinitive of haben or sein) points to passive! We don't talk much about the future ideal time, but here are two examples: Wenn du ankommst, Wird das gute Essen schon verschwunden sein. When you arrive, the good food is gone. Die Anderen Werden schon alles gegessen haben. The rest have already eaten everything. (c) Passive If the position contains past participation, Werden is used to refer to passive. Das Essen ist in der Kantine gekocht worden. The food was cooked in the cafeteria. Dunn Wurde es von den Student Hesse. The narrative/simple past was then eaten by students. Im Moment wird es verdaut. (now) at the moment it is being digested. Morgen wird wieder etwas anderes gekocht werden. (Future) Tomorrow will be cooked something else. Common Traps Not all active statements have Passive Counterpart Most active statements can be converted into passive statements by discarding the agent (or reissuing it using the background): Hertz entdeckte (detected) Radiowellen - Radiowellen wurden (von Hertz) entdeckt; Freud ver'ffentlichte (published) 1900 die Traumdeutung Interpretations of Dreams Die Traumdeutung wurde 1900 (von Freud) ver'ffentlicht. In a significant number of cases, however, it will be impossible: Ich habe geschlafen. I was asleep. Ich bin geschlafen worden./Von mir ist geschlafen worden. I was asleep./Sleeping was made by me. Their Byle Mich. I'm in a hurry. Ich werde beeilt./Von mir wird sich beeilt. I hurried up./Hurryng made by me. This usually applies to non-transient verbs (verbs that cannot take a direct object) and reflexive verbs, for example, but it is difficult to come up with a simple and comprehensive rule. If you think about the meaning of passive statements you are trying to form, however, you should be able to recognize when you are trying to put something in passive that cannot actually be put into passive mixing of Active and Passive Voice There are two ways in which this error usually gets made: in creating a passive statement either from scratch or on the basis of an appropriate active voice statement, often has an active position of affairs in mind. The result is a temptation (1) to mistakenly keep the topic of an active statement (agent) as the subject of a passive statement, although the point of creating a passive statement is precisely to either omit the agent or publish it using the background (or sometimes durch, etc.): Active statement: Hertz entdeckte Radiowellen Hertz discovered radio waves. Proper passive statement: Radiowellen wurden (von Hertz) entdeckt. Radio waves were detected (Hertz). Wrong passive statement: Hertz wurde Radiowellen entdeckt. Hertz was found to have radio waves. Active statement: Ich habe eine Warnung sber problem mit dem Passiv geschrieben. I wrote a warning about passive problems. Correct passive statement: Eine Warnung zber probleme mit dem Passiv ist geschrieben worden. A warning was written about passive problems. Wrong passive statement: Ich bin eine Warnung sber Problem mit dem Passiv geschrieben worden. I'm warning about problems with passive writing. (2) It is a mistake to hold a direct object of an active statement as a direct object of a passive statement, although the point of creating a passive statement is precisely to turn a direct object of an active statement into a subject of a passive statement, i.e. to place it in a nominal and conjugate verb agree with it: Active statement: Felix Wankel hat in den 50er Jaten den den ersten. Felix Vankel built the first rotary engine in the 1950s. Correct passive statement: Der erste Wankelmotor ist in den 50er Jahren (background Felix Wankel) gebaut worden. The first rotary engine was built in the 1950s (Felix Vankel). Wrong passive statement: Den Ersten Wankelmotor ist in den 50er Jahren (background Felix Wankel) gebaut worden. (translation would be as stated above) Active statement: Mein Freund hat mih schamlos ausgenutzt. My (boy) friend exploited me shamelessly. Correct passive statement: Ich bin von Meinem Freund schamlos ausgenutzt worden. I was used shamelessly by my (boy) friend. Wrong passive statement: Mich ist/bin von meinem Freund schamlos ausgenutzt worden. (translation would be as stated above) Passive and Dative Avoid temptations to do The verb in a passive statement agrees with the dative object in the statement. Remember that if a verb agrees with a noun or proun, it is a noun or a proun should be in par. Here's a few cautionary examples. In each case, the subject of passive sentence in bold (if it is), and dative object in italics. World bin / ist geholfen worden. They helped me. Ihnen sind/ist geholfen worden. They were helped. Uns werden/wird ein Buch gegeben. They give us a book. Uns Verdun tswei bye bucher Hegeben. They give us two books. Dem Baby Darf/Durfen Kane Nysse Hegeben Verdun. You can't give a child nuts. Den Babis Mussen/Muss mer Milch Gegeben Verdun. Children need to be given more milk. 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