

UNIT 1 : Passive

Adapted from A. Stoker's "DRACULA"

I arrived in Bistritz, a small town in Transylvania and I was staying in a hotel called The Golden Krone that **had been recommended** to me **by** Count Dracula.

As soon as I arrived I **was handed** a note from the Count himself. The note said that a coach will be arriving to take me to Dracula's castle.

"This morning I **will be driven** to the castle **by** someone sent **by** the Count " I told the hotel owner and his wife. They seemed quite shocked. The owner's wife begged me not to go; she said it was an evil place , but didn't tell me why.

Then she handed me a cross and told me " You **are given** this cross for protection! Keep it, please!"

When I arrived at the castle, the driver helped me out of the coach and left me in a great hurry.

A few minutes later, the front door **was opened by** a tall thin man dressed in black.

Comprehension activity:

- 1) Who recommended the hotel to the author?
- 2) What happened as soon as the author arrived at the hotel?
- 3) Why were the hotel owner and his wife scared?
- 4) Why was the author given a cross by the owner's wife?
- 5) Who opened the door of the castle?

Vocabulary - Find the words in the text with these meanings.

- 1)a person to whom something belongs .
- 2)to pass something to someone.
- 3)to ask someone to do something very anxiously or eagerly.
- 4)wicked/ bad
- 5)a vehicle with four wheels pulled by horses

Read the text again and decide if the following sentences are true or false.

Write T or F. Correct the false sentences.

- 1) ____ Count Dracula recommended to the author to visit the town of Bistritz.
- 2) ____ The author walked to Dracula's castle.

- 3) ____ The hotel owner and his wife were upset to hear that the author was going to Dracula's castle.
- 4) ____ The coach driver went back immediately.
- 5) ____ A fat short man opened the castle front door.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

PASSIVE VOICE

TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE

Verb **to be** as auxiliary followed by the past participle of the verb.

Passive may be used in any tense:

Present simple	am/ is / are	past participle
Past simple	was / were	past participle
Future	will	past participle
Present perfect	have/ has been	past participle

Past participle

regular verbs : + ED

irregular verbs: 3rd column

When turning an active sentence into passive , note that:

- the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive
- the verb form is changed (to be + past participle)
- the subject of the active sentence becomes the agent or is dropped

ex. John writes a letter (active)

A letter is written **by** John (passive)

The preposition **BY** + **the agent** is used only when necessary to understand the meaning of the sentence.

Only verbs that take an object can be used in the passive voice.

Exercise 1

Complete these sentences. Use the passive (present, past or future) of the following verbs:

STEAL GROW PAINT SERVE NOT MAKE

- 1) Fiat carsin England.
- 2) Guernica.....by Picasso.
- 3) Ricein the north of Italy.
- 4) Breakfast.....tomorrow at 8.30 a.m.
- 5) Yesterday my car.....

Exercise 2

Turn these sentences from active into passive (use BY only when necessary).

- 1) Nowadays teenagers use mobile phones a lot.
- 2) My father built this house 50 years ago.
- 3) We will pay the hotel bill in cash before leaving.
- 4) They have opened a clothes shop recently.
- 5) A lot of people speak English all over the world.