


19 Changing emphasis

There are a number of ways that you can change emphasis in English. One way is to use a less common grammatical structure, such as the passive voice.

 **New language** The passive voice

 **Vocabulary** Online learning

 **New skill** Changing sentence emphasis

19.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE PASSIVE VOICE

In a passive sentence, the emphasis is taken away from the agent (the person or thing doing the action), and put on the action itself (or the person or object receiving it).

The focus is on the many people.
Many people studied the book.
The subject of the active verb is the "people."

The focus is on the book.
The book was studied by many people.
The subject of the passive verb is the "book."



19.2 WHEN TO USE THE PASSIVE VOICE

The passive is used when the agent is obvious, unknown, or unimportant. It is also useful when describing a process where the result of the action is important.

The agent is not specified because the verb obviously refers to the police.
Hopefully, the thief will be arrested soon.

The agent is not specified because it is unknown.
Sarah's laptop was stolen from the library.
The agent is not specified because it is the process that is important, not who did it.

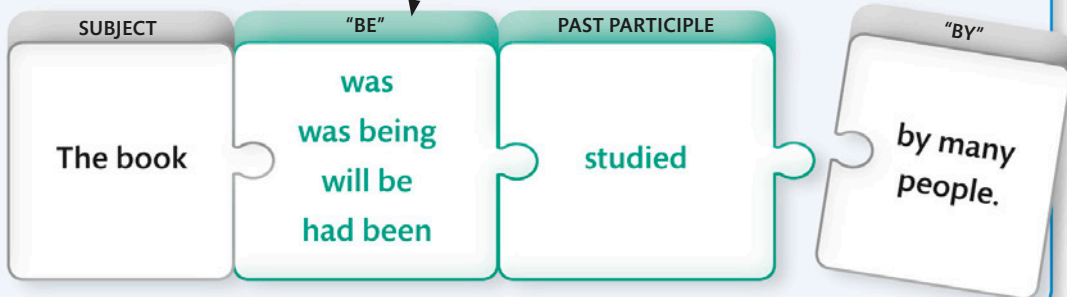
The posters are printed on good quality paper.



19.3 HOW TO FORM THE PASSIVE VOICE

To form the passive, use "be" with the past participle. Use "by" when you want to show the agent.

Use different forms of "be" for the past, continuous, future, and perfect forms of the passive.





19.4 READ THE TEXT AND CHOOSE THE BEST SUMMARY

The rise of online learning

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are open to anyone, anywhere, and often have subscriptions in the thousands. Millions of people around the world are currently taking part in MOOCs and studying everything from digital photography through to engineering and science. The courses are free, though you may have to pay for a certificate to prove that you have taken the course.

- 1 Millions of people are being enrolled onto each MOOC. ☐
- 2 MOOCs are being taken online by millions of people. ☐
- 3 MOOCs will be being taken by thousands of people. ☐



19.5 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

Many of the students could ~~affect~~ / **be affected** by the changes.

- 1 English is **spoken** / ~~speaks~~ by millions of people across the world.
- 2 Online courses **are studying** / **are being studied** by a variety of students.
- 3 The courses **are paying for** / **are being paid for** by a number of universities.
- 4 Certificates **can be printed out** / **can print out** at home by participants.
- 5 Some exams can **be taken** / **take** in several different languages.



19.6 REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING THE PASSIVE VOICE

More than 400 universities across the world offer MOOCs.

MOOCs are offered by more than 400 universities across the world.

- 1 People write 80 percent of the courses in English.
Eighty percent _____
- 2 Some universities offer credits for MOOC courses.
Credits _____
- 3 Some people provide technical help for the participants.
Technical help _____
- 4 Millions of students will take MOOCs next year.
Next year, MOOCs _____

TIP

Remember that you can sometimes omit the agent if the meaning is still clear.



19.7 KEY LANGUAGE NOUNS BASED ON PHRASAL VERBS

Some nouns are made from phrasal verbs, often formed by joining the verb and the particle together. When these words are spoken, the stress is usually on the verb.



The teacher asked me to **hand out** the exam papers.

Verb

Particle



The teacher gave us a **handout** containing homework tasks.

Noun

Sometimes, the noun is formed by putting the particle in front of the verb. In these cases, the spoken stress is usually on the particle.



Oh no! It was sunny and now it's **pouring down**.

The plural is formed by adding an "s" to the newly-formed noun.



We have a rainy season with daily **downpours**.



Aa

19.8 MATCH THE DEFINITIONS TO THE NOUNS

people who watch something happening without taking part

crackdown

1 failure, or a sudden decline in reputation or rank

outset

2 severe action taken by an authority to stop a certain activity

backup

3 extra support or help / a copy of computer data

onlookers

4 the act of signing in to a computer program or system

downfall

5 time or knowledge that has been put into a project

leftovers

6 what remains at the end of eating a meal

input

7 the act of registering your arrival at a hotel or airport

login

8 the beginning or start of something

check-in





19.9 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

A very narrow range of courses is provided online nowadays.

True ☐ False ☒ Not given ☐

- ① Business management is being studied more than any other subject online.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- ② With online courses, contributions can be posted at any time.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

- ③ Blended learning courses are written by university professors.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐



EducationNation

HOME ENTRIES ABOUT CONTACT

Online or face-to-face?

You can take a multitude of courses online nowadays: everything from online yoga through to a Master's degree in business management. But what are the pros and cons of online learning and how does it compare with the face-to-face experience? Of course one major advantage of learning online is that it is often more flexible. You can read and write whenever and wherever you like. Another bonus is that these courses are often cheaper or even free. However, because you are not in the same place as your peers, or even online at the same time, you may miss out on the camaraderie and peer support. Sometimes online learning can be a lonely experience. So, what is the solution? Well, maybe you can have the best of both worlds. With blended learning, you can have some face-to-face lessons while other course content is delivered online.



19.10 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL, USING THE CORRECT FORM AND VOICE

My Italian class is delivered online, with classes on Fridays.

- ① The things we learn are _____ in a weekly online exam.
- ② The face-to-face lessons expand on the online course _____.
- ③ From the _____, I knew this course would be successful.
- ④ Lack of motivation has always been my _____ in online learning.
- ⑤ The course is _____ by language-learning experts.
- ⑥ They have made changes to make it easier to _____ to your account.
- ⑦ There has also been a _____ on security to prevent cheating.

outset

~~deliver~~

downfall

write

crackdown

log in

test

input



19 CHECKLIST



The passive voice ☐

Aa Online learning ☐



Changing sentence emphasis ☐