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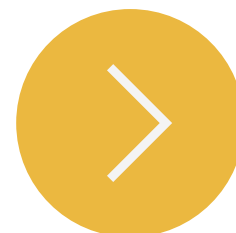
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VERBS L15.1 – THE PASSIVE VOICE

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WHAT IS THE PASSIVE VOICE?

The action itself is the most important in passive voice, answering the question "What is happening?"

The subject of the sentence is NOT performing the action. Instead, something is done to the subject. Therefore, the person or thing performing the action is not that important.

Examples:

- „Die Suppe **wird gekocht**."
- „Die Frau **wird fotografiert**."
- "Das Haus **wird gebaut**."

COMPARISON OF ACTIVE & PASSIVE

In active, the person who does something (the subject) is important:

- „**Frau Meier** kocht eine Suppe."

Question: **Who** is cooking the soup?

(The acting person is important: who is doing something.)

In passive, the action itself is important:

- "Die Suppe **wird gekocht**."

Question: **What** is happening?

(The action is important. Who is cooking the soup doesn't matter or is unknown.)

THE PASSIVE VOICE IN GERMAN

There are two types of passive voice:

1. **The Process Passive (Vorgangspassiv):** The action is important - what is happening or what has happened. The person who did it is unimportant or unknown.
2. **The Status Passive (Statuspassiv):** We describe the state after the action takes place.

I've also included an extra section on the so-called "impersonal passive". Technically, this is a type of Vorgangspassiv, but it often causes problems for students. That's why it has its own section.

TASK



Native Language Check

- Check how to form the passive in your native language!
- How does it work? Study it before you continue!

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