PASSIVE VOICE

was eaten by

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What is Passive Voice?

- Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

Example : My bike was stolen.

- In the example above, the focus is on the fact that my bike was stolen. I do not know, however, who did it.

- Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than active voice, as the following example shows:

Example: A mistake was made.

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Form:

Subject + finite form of *to be* + Past Participle (3rd column of irregular verbs)

Example: A letter was written.

★ **When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following:**

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

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