

JMW Turner (1775-1851): The Painter of Light

Passive voice

Here are some examples of the **passive** voice from the text. Convert them into **active** sentences.

Past simple passive

1. She *was committed* to a mental hospital by Turner and his father.
Turner and his father **committed** her to a mental hospital.
2. There *was* a lot of shame and guilt *attached* to mental illness at the time.
People **attached** a lot of shame and guilt to mental illness at the time.
3. He *was sent* away from home to live with an uncle in Brentford.
4. Britain *was transformed* by the Industrial Revolution.
5. He *was deeply inspired* by the light and colours of Venice and Rome.

Present simple passive

6. Turner *is best known* for his dramatic seascapes and landscapes.
7. He *is remembered* not only as a master of landscape painting, but also as an artist who captured the spirit of a rapidly changing Britain.

Present continuous passive

8. "The Fighting Temeraire" shows an old warship (which *is*) *being pulled* by a steam tugboat on its way to be dismantled.

The passive with a modal verb

9. A large collection of his works *can be seen* at Tate Britain in London.

Passive infinitive

10. He *was keen to be accepted* as a gentleman within this privileged environment.
11. He wanted his art *to be seen* by the public.

When and why do we use the passive voice?

Check your answers with the answer sheet.