

Episode 077 – Grammar

The passive voice in the future tense

The passive voice is a verb form that is used to describe actions or conditions. It changes the perspective of an action or event. While an active sentence emphasizes the subject carrying out an action, a passive construction places emphasis on the action being carried out. The agent in a passive sentence is less important, perhaps not even named. The action itself is in the foreground.

You've already learned about the passive voice in the present tense.

Examples:

Active

Dr. Anderson operiert Harry.

Passive

Harry wird von Dr. Anderson operiert.

Forming the passive voice in the future tense

Just like in the active voice, the passive voice can be used in different tenses. To form the future tense, you use a conjugated form of "werden", the past participle of the verb and the infinitive "werden".

Examples:

*Anna **wird erschossen werden.***

*Sie **wird in den Rücken getroffen werden.***

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

But because that's rather cumbersome, people usually use an abbreviated form in colloquial speech. Instead, they simply use the passive voice in the present tense - but the context must make it clear that the sentence is referring to the future. The infinitive of "werden" is left out.

Example:

*Anna **wird erschossen.***