



10.1

The passive voice



La foto **fue tomada** por la comadre.

TALLER DE CONSULTA

The following grammar topic is covered in the **Manual de gramática, Lección 10.**

10.4 Pero vs. sino, p. 412

Passive statements may also be expressed with the passive **se**. See 7.3, p. 256.

To review irregular past participles, see 7.1, p. 251.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Supersite: Audioscripts, SAM AK, Lab MP3s
SAM/WebSAM: WB, LM

Remind students that, in Spanish, the subject may be placed after the verb. Ex: **Carlos lo hizo./Lo hizo Carlos.** Both variations use the active voice and should not be confused with passive constructions. Ex: **Fue hecho por Carlos.**

Clarify that while **ser** may be used in any tense, the passive voice is most commonly used to refer to past actions. Also point out that passive constructions are not as commonly used in Spanish as they are in English.

- In the active voice (**la voz activa**), a person or thing (agent) performs an action on an object (recipient). The agent is emphasized as the subject of the sentence. Statements in the active voice usually follow the pattern [agent] + [verb] + [recipient].

AGENT = SUBJECT	VERB	RECIPIENT
El policía <i>The police officer</i>	vigila <i>guards</i>	la frontera. <i>the border.</i>
El departamento de inmigración <i>The department of immigration</i>	ha detenido <i>has detained</i>	a diez personas. <i>ten people.</i>

- In the passive voice (**la voz pasiva**), the recipient of the action becomes the subject of the sentence. Passive statements emphasize the thing that was done or the person that was acted upon. They follow the pattern [recipient] + **ser** + [past participle] + **por** + [agent].

RECIPIENT = SUBJECT	SER + PAST PARTICIPLE	POR + AGENT
La frontera <i>The border</i>	es vigilada <i>is guarded</i>	por el policía. <i>by the police officer.</i>
Diez personas <i>Ten people</i>	han sido detenidas <i>have been detained</i>	por el departamento de inmigración. <i>by the department of immigration.</i>

- Note that singular forms of **ser** (**es, ha sido, fue**, etc.) are used with singular recipients, and plural forms (**son, han sido, fueron**, etc.) are used with plural recipients.

La manifestación **es organizada** por un grupo de activistas.
The demonstration is organized by a group of activists.

Los dos candidatos **fueron rechazados** por el comité.
The two candidates were rejected by the committee.

- In addition, the past participle must agree in number and gender with the recipient(s).

La **disminución** de empleos fue **prevista** por el Secretario de Economía.
The decline in jobs was predicted by the Treasury Secretary.

Los **problemas** han sido **resueltos** por el jefe.
The problems have been resolved by the boss.

- Note that **por** + [agent] may be omitted if the agent is unknown or not specified.

Las metas fueron alcanzadas.
The goals were reached.

El maltrato no ha sido eliminado.
Abuse has not been eradicated.

