

Сорок второй урок

42

Грамматика:	Introduction to Passive 42.A: Present Passive Participles : Form 42.B: Present Passive Participles : Meaning 42.B: Present Passive Participles : Text
Текст:	Она́ даже презира́ема <i>She is even despised</i>

A Little More Grammar: The Passive Voice

Before describing the formation and usage of present passive participles, let's look at the passive voice in general. Most of you have a general idea of what a passive sentence looks like. If not, now is the time to find out. In the sentences below we have labeled the various nouns with the cases they would bear in Russian.

Active	Passive
a) <i>The soldiers</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>destroyed the village</i> <small>ACC</small>	<i>The village</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>was destroyed (by the soldiers)</i> <small>INSTR</small>
б) <i>Kira</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>translated the article</i> <small>ACC</small> <i>in 1983</i>	<i>The article</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>was translated (by Kira)</i> <small>INSTR</small> <i>in 1983</i>
в) <i>Thieves</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>steal a car</i> <small>ACC</small> <i>every 20 seconds</i>	<i>A car</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>is stolen (by thieves)</i> <small>INSTR</small> <i>every twenty seconds</i>
г) <i>The FBI</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>will arrest her</i> <small>ACC</small> <i>tomorrow</i>	<i>She</i> <small>NOM</small> <i>will be arrested (by the FBI)</i> <small>INSTR</small> <i>tomorrow</i>

What Gets Changed/Added Between Active and Passive Constructions:

1. The **(accusative) direct object** of the active sentence (*village, article, car, her*), becomes the **(nominative) subject** of the passive sentence: (*village, article, song, she*).
2. The **nominative subject** of the active sentence (*soldiers, Kira, thieves, the FBI*) is *optionally* expressed in the passive in a **“by-phrase,”** which corresponds to the **bare instrumental** in Russian. Sometimes this “by-phrase” sounds perfectly natural (sentences a, б and в are fine – at least to me); other times, though not grammatically incorrect, sentences with a “by-phrase” sound “awkward”. (I'm not in love with the “by-phase” in sentence в.)
3. A form of the verb **be** is inserted. Note that it can be past (a, б) present (в) or future (г).
4. Sometimes, a different form of the main verb is required: *steal* > *stolen*; *arrest* > *arrested*.

Grammatical Changes Between Active and Passive Sentences

Active	Passive
Direct Object (Accusative)	> Subject (Nominative)
Subject	> In “by phrase” (Instrumental) – optional
Regular Verb	> <i>Be</i> + Verb (possibly different)

Some Differences Between Active and Passive Participles

- *Passive Participles – Only from Transitive Verbs*

When describing the formation of active participles we really didn't have to pay attention to the *meaning* of the verb. The one restriction was that only imperfective verbs could form present active participles, but that didn't have anything to do the *meaning* of the verb. *Passive* participles, on the other hand, can normally only be formed from “true” *transitive* verbs, i.e., verbs that take an *accusative direct object*. Verbs that govern any other case, or that are followed by a prepositional phrase, or that are intransitive cannot normally form passive participles.

Verbs That Cannot Be Passived in Russian	
Verbs (Verb Phrases)	Reason They Can't Be Passivized
помог ⁺ <, завидова ⁺ , меша́й ⁺ , etc.	Takes a dative complement
смотре́ ⁺ на, заботи ⁺ ...ся о	Takes a prepositional phrase complement
ду́май ⁺ , сиде́ ⁺	Verbs are intransitive
бо́я ⁺ ...ся, занима́й ⁺ ...ся	No -ся verbs can take accusative

Thus, sentences like *I was helped (by a stranger)*; *He was envied (by everyone)*; *She was taken care of (by her sister)*; *He was feared (by his students)* cannot be expressed using a passive participle in Russian. (We'll tell you later on how to “passivize” these kinds of verbs.)

- *Passive Participles – Not Just From Котóрый Clauses*

For both present and past active participles, we emphasized that they are equivalent to clauses containing **котóрый** in the nominative case. As we would expect (based on what we saw just above), passive participles are equivalent to clauses containing **котóрый** in the *accusative* case. However, passive participles can also be formed from single clauses, where no **котóрый** is present. The English sentences on the first page of this lesson are perfect examples. Here are some more “non-котóрый” passive sentences:

Active Sentence – No котóрый	Passive Sentence – Short Form Participle
John sent an angry e-mail to Moby.	An angry e-mail was sent to Moby (by John).
Nancy built this house in 1875.	This house was built in 1875 (by Nancy).

It is, of course, possible to form relative clauses with these phrases (using accusative **котóрые**), but we have to add an entire clause:

Active Sentence – Accusative котóрый	Passive Sentence – Long Form Participle
The angry e-mail <i>which John to Moby</i> appeared on the front page on the New York Times	The angry e-mail (<i>which was sent (by John) to Moby</i>) appeared on the front page of the New York Times
I want to buy the house <i>that Nancy built in 1875</i>	I want to buy the house (<i>which was built in 1875 (by Nancy)</i>)

Passive sentences derived from active sentences with no relative clause use a *short-form* passive participle, while phrases derived from sentences with a relative clause (accusative котóрый) take the *long-form*. Much more on this below.

Passive Participles

- *Basic Overview of Passive Participles*

Passive participles describe *what was (is being / will be) done to the modified noun*.

42.A Present Passive Participles: Form

The first thing we should note is that of the four types, present passive participles are **by far** the least commonly found – it's not even close. You could go a long time without ever encountering a present passive participle, even in written form.

(Remember - only from *imperfective* transitive verbs): **-М-** (= мы form + ending)

Simply take the present tense **мы**-form and add the appropriate adjectival ending:

Present Tense мы-form	Present Passive Participle (in various CNGs)
чита́ем	чита́емая
уважа́ем	уважа́емое
открыва́ем	открыва́емыми
обсужда́ем	обсужда́емые

Stress does not shift from where it is in the stem:

кури́+	кури́мую
люби́+	люби́мым
выноси́+	выноси́мой

Stems in {ай+ / -авай+} use the infinitive/past stem (-авай), similar to the imperative:

{задай+ / задава́й+}	задава́емое
{узнай+ / узнава́й+}	узнава́емых

A few exceptions (what would a grammar lesson be without exceptions?):

несём but...	несо́мое
ведём but...	ведо́мые
ищем but	иско́мый (mutation undone)

Many, many transitive verbs do not normally form a present passive participle. Here are a few:

No Present Passive Participle Form
{пѣй+ / пи+}; {моѣй+ / мы+}; ждѣ+; писѣ+; смотрѣ+; говорѣ+; учѣ+

Notice that it's not strictly a matter of form. The и-stem **храни+** forms a present passive participle, but **говори+** does not.

As expected, present passive participles agree with the noun they modify in CNG. The fact that passive participles (both present and past) are equivalent to *accusative* *который* clauses makes no difference; once the participle is formed the only thing that matters is the case of the modified noun:

↓ ↓

На столѣ лежит книга, читаемая студентами. (Feminine Nominative Singular)
On the table there is the book (which is) being read by the students.

↓ ↓

Что ты думаешь о вопросе, обсуждаемом комитетом? (Masculine Prepositional Singular)
What do you think about the question (which is) being discussed by the committee?



Form Present Passive Participles. Use Masculine Nominative Singular.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. обнимаѣ+ | 2. объясняѣ+ |
| 3. храниѣ+ | 4. покупаѣ+ |
| 5. {задаѣ+ / задаѣ+} | 6. обсуждаѣ+ |
| 7. курѣ+ | 8. читаѣ+ |
| 9. поднимаѣ+ | 10. вѣд+ (exception!) |

42.Б Present Passive Participles: Meaning

There are several ways to translate present passive participles:

1) *which is being decided, read, observed, etc*

As we mentioned above, the subject of the active sentence may appear in the instrumental (with no preposition) in the passive, normally with the meaning “*by*”.

Студѣнты не собираются писать сочинѣния,
задаѣваемые профессо^ром.

Эта книга читаемая всей Америкой

*The students don't intend to write the compositions
which are being assigned by the professor.*

*This is the book which is being read by all
America.*

2) *equivalent to the English suffix ‘-ible; -able’*

незабываемый	<i>unforgettable</i>
несклоняемый	<i>indeclinable (nouns, adjectives, etc.)</i>
невыносимый	<i>unbearable</i>
неузнаваемый	<i>unrecognizable</i>

У него забываемая улыбка.

He has an unforgettable smile.

Для меня причастия невыносимы.

Participles are unbearable for me.

3) A number of present passive participles have made the complete transition to “adjectivehood” similar to the way that **настоящий** and **следующий** are now considered adjectives, rather than present active participles. Among the adjectives that “started out” as present passive participles are:

уважаемый	<i>respected, Dear (used in official situations and salutations)</i>
любимый	<i>favorite; beloved</i>

Уважаемый профессор Фрейдель!

Dear Professor Freidel (no relation)!

Я вас терпеть не могу! Несмотря на то, что русский язык мой любимый предмет, вы – невыносимый человек!

I can't stand you! Despite the fact that Russian is my favorite subject, you are an unbearable person.

We'll shortly be seeing several more adjectives (and derived adverbs) that are related to present passive participles.

42.Б.1 Long-form vs. Short-form Passive Participles

Unlike active participles, which always appear in the long-form (i.e., with a full adjectival ending: -ое, -ая, -ему, -ими, etc.), passive participles can also occur in the **short-form** (which is restricted to predicate position – i.e. only after a form of the verb *be* and **never preceding the noun**). Recall also that short-form adjectives can appear only in nominative case. (The choice between long-form vs. short-form in predicate position is rather complicated, so we'll avoid it for now.)

As mentioned above, the short-form is used when the passive sentence is derived from a 'non-**котóрый**' active sentence. If the present passive participle is equivalent to an accusative **котóрый** clause, you must use the long form.

Here are more examples of **short-form present passive participles** - no **котóрый** around. Note that the verb *be* can appear in past or future (despite the fact that the participle is called a *present* passive):

Active	Passive
Все презира́ли Тама́ру <i>Everyone despised Tamara</i>	Тамара́ была́ презира́ема (все́ми) <i>Tamara was despised (by everyone)</i>
Все лю́бят Ре́ймонда <i>Everyone loves Raymond</i>	Ре́ймонд люби́м (все́ми) <i>Raymond is loved (by everyone)</i>
Я не вы́несу пого́ду <i>I will not bear the weather</i>	Пого́да бу́дет невыно́сима <i>The weather will be unbearable</i>

Examples of **long-form present passive participles** - from **accusative котóрый** clauses. Pre-posing is possible:

Active	Passive
Никому́ не понравится картина, кото́рую А́лла рису́ет. <i>No one will like the picture that Alla is drawing.</i>	Никому́ не понравится картина, рису́емая А́ллой. <i>No one will like the picture that is being drawn by Alla.</i>
Я интересу́юсь пробле́мой, кото́рую а́втор описыва́ет. <i>I am interested in the problem that the author is describing.</i>	Я интересу́юсь описыва́емой а́втором пробле́мой. <i>I am interested in the problem that is being described by the author.</i>



Make these sentences (or clauses within them) passive *when possible*:

1. Все презира́ют *despise* Витю́.
2. Ты чита́л статью́, кото́рую Лэ́на обсужда́ет?
3. Я зави́дую Ма́ше.
4. Студе́нты уважа́ют профе́ссора.
5. Тебе́ нра́вится карти́на, кото́рую Ми́ша рису́ет
draw?
6. Все боя́тся И́горя.
7. Никто́ не понима́ет теори́ю, кото́рую Ни́на
описыва́ет *describe*.
8. Я не выношу́ *bear* э́ту ситуаци́ю.
9. Что ты ду́маешь о зада́нии, кото́рое наш
профе́ссор зада́ет?
10. Вся Росси́я чита́ет э́тот рома́н.

42.B Present Passive Participles: Text


We want to emphasize (again) that this text contains an artificially large number of present passive participles. Even the most die-hard participle junkie would never include this many participles, let alone these rarely found present passive participles, in a single paragraph. But we want you to get more than your fix of these exotic participles.




- 1 **Уважаемые** студенты русского языка!
- 2 Жёнщине, **описываемой** здесь, очень грустно. Несмотря на то, что она **посвящáет** всё своё
- 3 время своим студентам, она не любима ими, даже **презира́ема**. Она **преподаёт** математику, но,
- 4 конечно, их любимый предмет история. Для неё такая **ситуация невыносима**. Никто не делает
- 5 домашних заданий, задаваемых **ёю**. Никто не обращáет внимания на **картины, рисуемые** её сыном.
- 6 Никто не слýшает забывáемые песни, сочиняемые её дочерью. Мне её очень жáлко.

Словáрь

1	уважаемый	here: <i>Dear (official greeting)</i> but note that it is the same as the present passive participle from the verb уважáй+ .
2	описывáй+ // описá+	<i>describe</i>
2	посвящáй+ // посвятí+ (т> щ) <i>что кому́/чему́</i>	<i>dedicate (what to what/whom)</i>
3	презира́й+	<i>despise</i>
3	{преподай+ / преподавáй+} <i>(Imperfective only) + что кому́</i>	<i>teach (a subject to whom)</i> You can't use this for teaching someone to do something. We'll cover that later.
4	ситуáция	<i>situation</i>
4	выносí+ // вынёс+'	<i>bear, endure; put up with</i>
5	ёю	Instrumental of онá . (The "normal" form is ей , but for some bizarre reason, in a passive construction every Russian I've ever met insists on ёю .)
5	картина	<i>picture; painting</i>
5	рисовá+ // на-	<i>draw</i>

 **Упражнение 1** Translate the text into natural sounding English and send it via e-mail

 **Упражнение 2** Form present passive participles, *when possible*. Use any CNG you wish

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. сочиня́й+ | 2. люби́+ |
| 3. описа́+ | 4. {зада́й+ / задава́й+} |
| 5. иди́ | 6. реша́й+ |
| 7. занима́й+...ся | 8. сиде́+ |
| 9. перево́ди+ <i>translate (imperfective)</i> | 10. выно́си+ |
| 11. завидова́+ | 12. уважа́й+ |

 **Упражнение 3** Transform these sentences into passive

1. Мне о́чень нра́вится карти́на, кото́рую Ле́на опи́сывает.
2. Комите́т обсужда́ет вопро́с.
3. Его́ любя́ли все. (*Think about how to express tense!*)
4. Весь При́нстон чита́ет его́ но́вую пье́су.
5. У него́ улы́бка, кото́рую никто́ не мо́жет забы́ть. (*Think about this!*)