

Passive and Impersonal Forms

The passive and impersonal forms are made by adding the passive sign, य (ya) to the verbal root, and then appending ātmanepada terminations. In forming the passive, there are no root to base changes as there are in the active voice, thus the conjugational rules do not apply.

In the passive, only the original roots are used, and not the substitutes which some roots take before the conjugational sign, as गच्छ् (gacch) for गम् (gam) and तिष्ठ् (tiṣṭh) for स्था (sthā).

गम् [गच्छ्] (gam [gacch]) 1P to go; passive: गम्यते (gamyate)

स्था [तिष्ठ्] (sthā [tiṣṭh]) 1P to stand, stay; passive: स्थीयते (sthīyate)

Special Cases:

1. If a root ends in ऋ (ṛ) which is not preceded by a conjunct consonant रि (ri) is substituted for it before the य (ya) of the passive, as कृ (kṛ) becomes क्रि (kri).

For example:

कृ क्रियते (kṛ kriyate)	8U to do, make
दृ द्रियते (dṛ driyate)	6A to honour
धृ ध्रियते (dhṛ dhriyate)	1U to hold
मृ म्रियते (mṛ mriyate)	6A to die
सृ स्रियते (sṛ sriyate)	1P to go
हृ ह्रियते (hṛ hriyate)	1P to take

2. The final इ (i) or उ (u) of a root is lengthened before य (ya); as जि (ji) becomes जी (jī) and श्रु (śru) श्रू (śrū) श्रूयते (śrūyate).

For example:

क्षि क्षीयते (kṣi kṣīyate)	1P to decay
चि चीयते (ci cīyate)	5U to collect

जि	जीयते	(ji jīyate)	1P to conquer
श्रु	श्रूयते	(śru śrūyate)	1P to flow
श्रि	श्रीयते	(śri śrīyate)	1P to reach
स्मि	स्मीयते	(smi smīyate)	1A to smile
स्रु	स्रूयते	(sru srūyate)	1 P to flow

3. Those roots of the tenth conjugation, whose vowels take a *guṇa* or *vṛddhi* in the active voice, undergo the same change before the य (ya) of the passive, as चुर (cur) चोरयति (corayati) active; चोर्यते (coryate), not चुर्यते (curyate).

Examples of active and passive third person singular:

चुर	चोरयति	चोर्यते	(cur corayati coryate)	10U to steal
तड्	ताडयति	ताड्यते	(taḍ tāḍayati tāḍyate)	10U to beat
तुल्	तोलयति	तोल्यते	(tul tolayati tolyate)	10U to weigh

4. If roots have a penultimate न् (n) or *anusvāra*, it is dropped before य (ya), except in certain cases. As प्रशंस् च (praśams) 1P is प्रशंसति (praśamsati) in active and प्रशस्यते (praśasyate) in passive.

5. The roots दा (dā) धा (dhā) मा (mā) गै (gai) हा (hā) पा (pā) स्था (sthā) change their final vowel to ई (ī).

For example:

दा	दीयते	(dā dīyate)	1P to give
धा	धीयते	(dhā dhīyate)	3U to put, hold
मा	मीयते	(mā mīyate)	2P, 4A to measure
गै	गीयते	(gai gīyate)	1P to sing
हा	हीयते	(hā hīyate)	3P to leave
पा	पीयते	(pā pīyate)	1P to drink
स्था	स्थीयते	(sthā sthīyate)	1P to stand, stay, remain

6. Final ऋ (ṛ) is changed to ईर् (īr) as स्तृ (stṛ) → स्तीर् (stīr) → स्तीयते (stīryate)
but final ऋ (ṛ) is changed to ऊर् (ūr) after a labial, as पृ (pṛ) → पूर् (pūr) → पूयते (pūryate)

For example:

कृ कीर्यते (kṛ kīryate) 6P to scatter

तृ तीर्यते (tṛ tīryate) 1P to cross

पृ पूर्यते (pṛ pūryate) 3, 9 P to fill

Examples of Active, Passive and Impersonal Sentences

Active Voice	Passive Voice/Impersonal Voice
अग्निः काष्ठं दहति agnih kāṣṭhaṁ dahati The fire burns the wood.	अग्निना काष्ठं दह्यते agninā kāṣṭhaṁ dahyate The wood is burned by the fire.
पुरुषाः शठौ तादयति puruṣāḥ śaṭhau tādayati The people beat the two thieves.	शठौ पुरुषैस्ताड्येते śaṭhau puruṣaistādyete Two thieves are beaten by the people.
जन ऋषीं वन्दते jana ṛṣīṁ vandanate The person salutes the sages.	ऋषयो जनेन वन्द्यन्ते ṛṣayo janena vandyante The sages are saluted by the person.
छात्राः श्लोकान् पठन्ति chātrāḥ ślokān paṭhanti Students learn the verses.	छात्रैः श्लोकाः पठ्यन्ते chātraiḥ ślokāḥ paṭhyante The verses are learned by the students.
सूर्यः प्रकाशते sūryaḥ prakāśate The sun shines	सूर्येण प्रकाशयते sūryeṇa prakāśyate The sun shines
ईश्वरो भवति īśvaro bhavati The Lord is.	ईश्वरेण भूयते īśvareṇa bhūyate The Lord is.