

Passive vs. Active Voice

In the active voice...

The dog bit
the man

...the subject performs the action
Active sentences focus on the doer.

The man
was bitten
by the dog

In the passive voice...

...the subject receives the action
Passive sentences focus on what is
done.

Is it ever okay to write in the passive voice?

Yes!

The results
were
misread

- When you want to emphasise a verb instead of a subject
- When you want to keep the subject's identity a secret
- When the subject is unknown
- To create an authoritative tone

The
proposal
was
accepted

Visitors
are not
allowed!

The car
was stolen