Passive:

	Active Voice	Passive Voice	
Present simple	They paint the house once a year.	The house is painted once a year.	
Present continuous	They are painting the house now.	The house is being painted now.	
Past simple	They painted the house yesterday.	The house was painted yesterday.	
Past continuous	They were painting the house at 4 o'clock yesterday.	The house was being painted at 4 o'clock yesterday.	
Future simple	They will paint the house tomorrow.	The house will be painted tomorrow.	
Present perfect	They have already painted the house.	The house has already been painted.	
Past perfect	They had painted the house before they moved in.	The house had been painted before they moved in.	
Modals	They must paint the house.	The house must be painted.	
Infinitive	They have to paint the house.	The house has to be painted.	

Changing from active into passive				
Active	Subject	Verb	Object	
	Picasso	painted	Guernica	
Passive	Subject	Verb	Agent	
	Guernica	was painted	by Picasso	

2

We use the passive when the action itself is more important than the person who does it.

William started a charity to help the homeless last year.

A charity to help the homeless was started by William last year.

Someone called the police to the scene.

The police were called to the scene.