

The Passive

Languages

Formed with werden, and how it differs from a description with sein.

Vorgangspassiv — werden

- The action as it happens
- Die Tür wird geöffnet – the door is being opened
- werden + past participle
- Perfect: ist geöffnet worden

Zustandspassiv — sein

- The resulting state
- Die Tür ist geöffnet – the door is open
- sein + past participle
- Describes, does not narrate

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

English uses 'is opened' for both. German forces you to choose whether you mean the event or the state.

In the passive perfect, geworden becomes worden. That irregularity exists only in the passive.