

Impersonal Se & Passive Se**The impersonal se**

The impersonal se is used in sentences where there is NO SPECIFIC SUBJECT.

You've even used it before... remember?

"How does one say 'pencil' in Spanish? – ¿Cómo se dice "pencil" en español?

Other examples:

- One works a lot in that class.
- They live well in that city.

How do you construct it?

- Start the sentence with "se" – it doesn't translate, but tells us that it's an impersonal sentence.
- Then conjugate the verb in the él, ella, Ud. form.
 - Se trabaja mucho en esa clase.
 - Se vive bien en esa ciudad.

The passive se

Is very similar to the impersonal se – that's why they are taught together – because it's hard to tell them apart!

The difference is that the passive se tells what has been done or not done, without saying who did it.

If you haven't already been taught this in your English class, you will be soon. Papers should not have over a certain percentage of passive voice.

Examples in English:

- Bread is sold at the grocery store. (doesn't say "who" sells it)
- Pastries are bought at the pastry shop.

How do you construct it?

- Start the sentence with “se” – again, doesn’t translate, but indicates passive voice.
- Then conjugate the verb for the object – either the él, ella, Ud. form or the ellos, ellas, Uds. Form
 - Se vende pan en la tienda de comestibles.
 - Se compran pasteles en la pastelería.
 - Se pueden practicar deportes en el parque.
 - Sports can be practiced in the park.

The passive se is also used to say what is or isn’t allowed by using the verbs permitir or prohibir.

- Se permite montar en bicicleta.
 - Bike riding is permitted.
- No se prohíbe montar en bicicleta.
 - Bike riding is not prohibited.
- No se permite fumar.
 - Smoking is not permitted.
- No se prohíbe el uso del telefono celular.
 - Use of cell phones is not prohibited.

Impersonal Se & Passive Se**The impersonal se**

The impersonal se is used in sentences where there is _____
_____.

You've even used it before... remember?

"How does one say 'pencil' in Spanish? – _____

Other examples in English:

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How do you construct it?

- Start the sentence with _____ – it doesn't translate, but tells us that it's an _____.
- Then conjugate the verb in the _____.
 - _____ mucho en esa clase.
 - _____ bien en esa ciudad.

The passive se

Is very similar to the _____ – that's why they are taught together – because it's hard to tell them apart!

The difference is that the passive se tells _____,
without saying _____ did it.

If you haven't already been taught this in your English class, you will be soon.
Papers should not have over a certain percentage of passive voice.

Examples in English:

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How do you construct it?

- Start the sentence with _____ – again, doesn't translate, but indicates passive voice.
- Then conjugate the verb for _____ – either the _____ or the _____
 - _____ en la tienda de comestibles.
 - _____ en la pastelería.
 - _____ en el parque.
 - Sports can be practiced in the park.

The passive se is also used to say what is or isn't _____ by using the verbs _____ or _____.

- _____ montar en bicicleta.
 - Bike riding is permitted.
- _____ montar en bicicleta.
 - Bike riding is not prohibited.
- _____ fumar.
 - Smoking is not permitted.
- _____ el uso del telefono celular.
 - Use of cell phones is not prohibited.