

The Passive Voice

Project Work, Part III: Analyzing Student Texts

Analyzed textbook 1:
Grammar Dimensions Platinum, Vol.3, Unit 4: Passive Verbs (p. 46-63)
By Stephen H. Thewlis (2000)

Grammatical Explanation/Sequencing

In this unit, the first component of the passive voice that the author addresses is what is referred to as a Review of Passive Verb Forms. Within this section of the unit, he explains five forms of the passive. These forms are sequenced in the order that follows (a) be + past participle (+ by phrase), (b) the changing of be to indicate single or plural, (c) affirmative or negative, (d) time frame (present, past, future) and aspect (simple, perfect progressive), (e) modal information (predication, advisability, possibility, etc.). Each of these five forms is presented in a chart that provides an explanation for each of the forms as well as examples specific to each form.

To explain the first form, the author indicates that only the be auxiliary changes form in the passive voice. In addition, he suggests that often information is not provided about who or what has performed the action. However, when this information is provided, it should be included in the (+ by phrase). To explain the second form, the author suggests students should change be to indicate singular or plural. The author provides no explanations of the third, fourth, or fifth form. The only explanation for these forms is the descriptive title I have indicated in the