**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 teléfono 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 _________________.
  o ___ __________ mucho en esa clase.
  o ___ __________ 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.