**4. La voz pasiva - The passive voice**

Look at the following sentences.

Spanish is spoken. Se habla español.

The food is prepared. Se prepara la comida.

Tortillas are eaten. Se comen las tortillas.

What is the subject of these sentences? Is it *yo, tú, él*  etc.? No...The subject of these sentences is also the object. It does and receives the action of the verb. In Spanish we use the pronoun **se** to express the passive voice.

Look at the third sentence. The verb *comen* is in the *ellos* or plural form because the subject *tortillas* is plural. In the passive voice the verb will always be in either the *él* or *ellos*  form. Begin the sentence with **se.**

**A. Traduce. Translate.**

1. La tortilla is eaten in Mexico.

2. Los tacos are eaten in Mexico.

3. El gazpacho is prepared in Spain.

4. Los churros are cooked in Spain.

5. Los plátanos are fried in the Caribbean.

6. Spanish is spoken in Spain.

7. English (*inglés*) is spoken in the United States.

8. The bread is bought in the bread store.

9. The fish is sold in the fish store.

10. The food is served in the restaurant.

11. The ice cream is eaten in the summer.

12. The eggs are fried in oil.

13. The oranges are peeled.

14. The fire is turned off.

**B. Contesta con frases completas en la voz pasiva.**

1. ¿Con qué se corta la carne?
2. ¿De qué se bebe el agua?
3. ¿Con qué se come el helado?
4. ¿De qué se bebe el café?
5. ¿Con qué se come la ensalada?
6. ¿De dónde se compran los pasteles?
7. ¿Con qué se come la sopa?
8. ¿Dónde se venden las frutas?
9. ¿Qué se pone en el pan?
10. ¿Dónde se vende la carne?
11. ¿Con qué se hace un bocadillo?
12. ¿Dónde se prepara la comida?
13. ¿Con qué se hace una ensalada?
14. ¿Con qué se limpia la boca?
15. ¿De qué se bebe el vino?

**Nota Cultural:** Every country has its *platos especiales*. We are all familiar with *el taco* which comes from Mexico. The base of the taco is *la tortilla*, which is a thin pancake made of corn. It is used like bread in Mexico. *La tortilla española* is different. This dish comes from Spain and is an omelet made of fried potatoes and eggs. *El gazpacho* is a tasty cold tomato soup from the south of Spain. Another very popular dish from Spain is *la paella.* *La paella* is a rice dish with seafood, chicken, sausage and vegetables. It is yellow from the seasoning *azafrán.*  Every country has some type of fried dough. In Spain they eat *los churros* , strips of dough fried in a vat of oil. They are eaten with *chocolate* a thick hot chocolate drink. Many people eat *churros* for breakfast. They can be bought at *la churrería.* A popular fried food of the Caribbean is *los plátanos fritos.* These are fried plantains which are similar to bananas but larger, greener and harder. Would you like to try any of these foods?