

Active and Passive Voice

Warm-Up



What Are Active and Passive Voice?

Can you write definitions for 'active' and 'passive' voice?

Active Voice

In an active sentence, the **subject** performs the **action** (the verb) to the **object**.

Passive Voice

In a passive sentence, the thing that would normally be the **object** gets turned into the **subject** through the use of the passive form of the verb. They often include a prepositional phrase starting with 'by'.

Do you and your partner agree?



Identifying Parts of the Sentence

To be able to recognise and use active and passive voice, you must be able to identify the parts of the sentence. In the following sentences, identify the **subject**, **action** (the verb) and **object**:

The **plane is boarded** by the **family**.

The **damage was caused** by the **storm**.

Issac threw a **ball** at the window.

The **magician pulled** a **rabbit** from the hat.

Helen practised her **recorder** every day.

The **flowers were grown** by my **nan**.

Did you notice the preposition 'by' in some of these sentences?



Active or Passive Voice?

Now, sort these sentences into the correct places in the table below:

The plane is boarded by the family.

The magician pulled a rabbit from the hat.

Issac threw a ball at the window.

Helen practised her recorder every day.

The flowers were grown by my nan.

The damage was caused by the storm.

Active	The magician pulled a rabbit from the hat. Issac threw a ball at the window. Helen practised her recorder every day.
Passive	The plane is boarded by the family. The damage was caused by the storm. The flowers were grown by my nan.

Changing Sentences

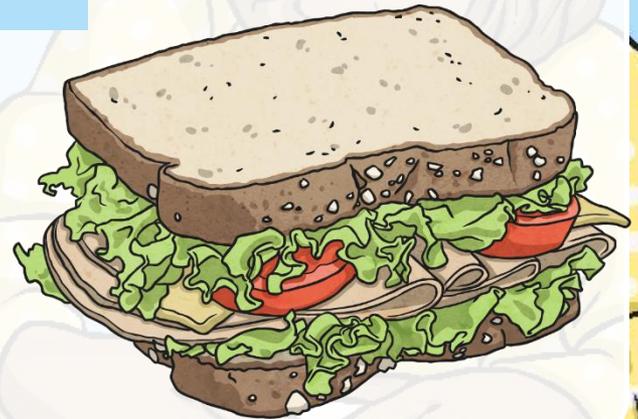
It is possible to change a sentence from active to passive voice, or from passive to active voice. It is important that you do not change the tense of the sentence. Have a go at altering these sentences:

On the plain, the lioness chased an antelope.
On the plain, an antelope was chased by the lioness.

Harry ate sandwiches for lunch.
Sandwiches were eaten by Harry for lunch.

The carrots are always eaten by my brother.
My brother always eats the carrots.

Are your new sentences active or passive?



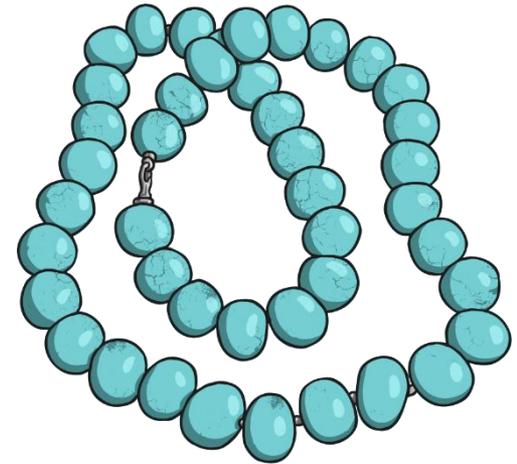
Tricky Passive Sentences

Read these passive sentences. What do you notice about them?

The **jewellery** was **stolen**.



The **bicycle** was **ridden**.



The **present** was **opened**.

They all have an **action** and a **subject** but none of them have a **object**. Sometimes the prepositional (by...) phrase can be removed and the sentence will still make sense – you just won't know who/what performed the verb.

Amazing Active Voice

Can you write descriptions of these photos in the active voice?



The children enjoyed climbing during their school camp.



They spent the day kayaking down the river.

Perfect Passive Voice

Can you write descriptions of these photos in the passive voice?



Tasty cupcakes were baked by my aunt for my birthday party.



The water balloons were blown up by my brother for the water fight.

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