

When we are talking about active and passive voice, we are considering who is doing what in a sentence, and what the focus is on. This can be useful for more formal writing, and writing things like explanations or parts of newspapers.



Think of these as 'the THING'

## 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?



In the passive voice, **the THING** becomes the star of the sentence!



Active

Miss Dunn placed **the pen** on the table.

Passive

**The pen** was placed on the table **by** Miss Dunn.

(this word is useful)

## 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.

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Helen practised her recorder every day.

The flowers were grown by my nan.

The damage was caused by the storm.

**Active**

**Passive**

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**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.

These sentences have changed from active to passive

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.

Can you see how THE THING has become the ★ ?

## 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.

## Quick Quiz

Rewrite these sentences in the passive voice:

Gina visited the library regularly.

My family always eat turkey for Christmas dinner.

The lazy girl ignored her alarm clock.



## Quick Quiz

Rewrite these sentences in the passive voice:

Gina visited the library regularly.

**The library was visited by Gina regularly.**

My family always eat turkey for Christmas dinner.

**Turkey is always eaten by my family for Christmas dinner.**

The lazy girl ignored her alarm clock.

**The alarm clock was ignored by the lazy girl.**

