

Active and Passive

Speaking and Listening 

What is the active?

An active sentence has the subject doing an action (verb) to an object.

S (the doer) V O
The boy hit the ball.

What is the passive?

A passive sentence has the object becoming the subject and having the action (verb) done to it.

The 'doer' may not be present, but if it is, it usually has the word 'by' before it.

S V 'the doer' - optional
The ball was hit (by the ball).

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Examples of Passive ●●○○○

Tense		Subject	Verb	Object
Simple Present	Active:	Rita	writes	a letter.
	Passive:	A letter	is written	by Rita.

Simple Past	Active:	Rita	wrote	a letter.
	Passive:	A letter	was written	by Rita.

Active and passive

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1) Identify the subject, the doer and the verb.

2) Is it an active or passive sentence?

[Yellow box for subject, doer, and verb identification]

Hurrying, he threw the bomb in the sea.

[Green box for active/passive classification]

[Yellow box for subject, doer, and verb identification]

The alligator was destroyed by the explosion.

[Green box for active/passive classification]

[Yellow box for subject, doer, and verb identification]

The carcass was pulled out.

[Green box for active/passive classification]

[Yellow box for subject, doer, and verb identification]

They ate the remains of the animal for dinner.

[Green box for active/passive classification]

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The sentence below is written in the active voice.

The wind blew the sign over.

Which sentence is the **passive** form of the sentence above?

Tick **one**.

The sign was blown over by the wind.

The wind caused the sign to blow over.

In the wind, the sign blew over.

Because it was windy, the sign blew over.