

Year 6 Grammar Revision

Passive and Active Voice



Active and Passive Voice: The Rules

To be able to understand passive and active voice, you need to have a good understanding of **subjects**, **verbs** and **objects** within sentences.

The **bunny** **appeared** from the **hat**.

The **subject** is who or what we are talking about in the sentence, i.e. the **bunny** is what we are talking about.

The **verb** is the doing word (**appeared**).

The **object** is the thing the verb is working on or acting upon. In this case, the **hat**.

Active Voice: The Rules

In English, **active sentences** are used much **more often** than passive sentences. In active sentences, **the subject** performs the **action** (the verb) to the **object**.

The **family** boarded the plane.



The **boy** ate the broccoli.

Passive Voice: The Rules

In passive sentences, the word order is reversed. The **subject** receives the **action** and the **object** is performing it.

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

The **plane** is now the subject but is receiving the action.



The **verb 'boarded'** now comes after a past tense form of the auxiliary verb 'to be', e.g. **was** or **were**.

The **family** are still performing the verb but the preposition word 'by' is added to show this.

Passive Voice: The Rules

The same happens in this passive sentence. The **subject** receives the **action** and the **object** is performing it.



The **broccoli** was eaten by the **boy**.

The **broccoli** is now the subject but is receiving the action.

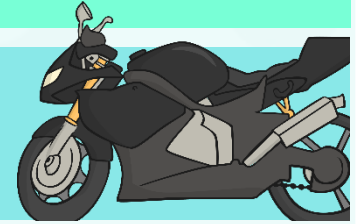
The **verb 'was'** is used again but this time 'ate' is changed to the past participle '**eaten**'.

The **boy** is still performing the verb but the preposition word 'by' is added to show this.

Passive Voice: The Tricky Bit

Some **passive** sentences **don't say who or what is doing the action** of the **verb** to the **subject**. The **object** is missing but the sentence still makes sense.

The **motorcycle** was ridden.



The **subject** is the motorcycle.

The **verb** was done to the subject but we don't know by whom or what.



It was stolen.

The **subject** is 'it' – a pronoun.

Again the **verb** was done to the subject but we don't know by whom or what.

Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 1

Which sentence is written in the active voice?

The damage was caused by the hurricane.

The cubs were protected by the lioness.

The sports car was driven by the World Champion.

Joseph practised his headers before the Cup Final.

Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 2

Underline the objects in these active sentences:

Isabelle threw a ball into the air.

In the playground, the boy chased the girl.

I carefully carried the eggs.

Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 3

Rewrite the sentence below so that it is written in the passive voice. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The lazy man ignored the alarm clock.

The alarm clock was ignored by the lazy man.

Active and Passive Voice – Quiz Question 3

Rewrite the sentence below so that it is written in the passive voice. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The lazy man ignored the alarm clock.

The alarm clock was ignored by the lazy man.

*Are you feeling
confident with active
and passive voice?*

