

Active and Passive Voice

In the **active voice**, the subject of a sentence (the person or thing doing or being) performs an action that affects the object.

Mum watered the garden.
 subject verb object

In the **passive voice**, the thing or person being affected by the action becomes the subject of the sentence. The person or thing performing the action becomes a preposition phrase containing 'by'.

The garden was watered by Mum.
 subject past participle preposition phrase

Read the following sentences from [The Shadow in the Snow](#), a Twinkl Originals story. Tick to show whether each one is written in the active or passive voice.

Sentence	Active Voice	Passive Voice
1. The road was patrolled by Mrs Chopra.	☐	☐
2. Jodie took the book eagerly.	☐	☐
3. Emma was woken by the loud voices.	☐	☐
4. It had been cuddled one too many times by a small child.	☐	☐
5. "Your big sister's collecting eggs."	☐	☐
6. Jodie followed the shadow in the moonlight.	☐	☐
7. "I've been a bit distracted by the baby's cough recently."	☐	☐
8. Caitlin decorated the table.	☐	☐

Use a different colour to fill in each part of the key and then highlight the features of each passive sentence below to match.

☐

subject

☐

past participle

☐

preposition phrase

9. She was woken by a sudden noise in the middle of the night.
10. The prints seemed to be made by desperate animals.

Challenge

Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice.

Dad baked a big cake.



ORIGINALS

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Active and Passive Voice Answers

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subject past participle preposition phrase

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10. The prints seemed to be made by desperate animals.

Challenge

Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice.

Dad baked a big cake.

A big cake was baked by Dad.

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5. She was woken by a sudden noise.

6. The prints seemed to be made by desperate animals.

Now, rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice.

7. Jodie took the book eagerly.

8. Dad baked a big cake.

9. Caitlin decorated the table.

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Challenge

Why do you think an author might choose to use the passive instead of the active voice?



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Use a different colour to fill in each part of the key and then highlight the features of each passive sentence below to match.



subject



past participle



preposition phrase

5. **She** was **woken** **by a sudden noise**.
6. **The prints** seemed to be **made** **by desperate animals**.

Now, rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice.

7. Jodie took the book eagerly.
The book was taken eagerly by Jodie.
8. Dad baked a big cake.
A big cake was baked by Dad.
9. Caitlin decorated the table.
The table was decorated by Caitlin.
10. "Your big sister's collecting eggs."
"Eggs are being collected by your big sister."

Challenge

Why do you think an author might choose to use the passive instead of the active voice?

The passive voice is used to draw attention to – or emphasise – the person or thing affected by the action being performed. It moves the focus away from the person or thing performing the action.

Active and Passive Voice

Read the following passive sentence from [The Shadow in the Snow](#), a Twinkl Originals story. Fill in the key to show the parts of the sentence that have been highlighted

_____ _____ _____

The road was patrolled by Mrs Chopra.

Now, rewrite the sentences below in the passive voice.

1. Jodie took the book eagerly.

2. Dad baked a big cake.

3. Caitlin decorated the table.

4. "Your big sister's collecting eggs."

5. Your bravery has set me free.

6. They all wanted rainbow clothes.

Why do you think an author might choose to use the passive instead of the active voice?



Now, write two sentences in the passive voice using the picture as a prompt.



- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Active and Passive Voice Answers

Read the following passive sentence from [The Shadow in the Snow](#), a Twinkl Originals story. Fill in the key to show the parts of the sentence that have been highlighted

 subject  past participle  preposition phrase

The road was **patrolled** **by Mrs Chopra**.

Now, rewrite the sentences below in the passive voice.

1. Jodie took the book eagerly.
The book was taken eagerly by Jodie.
2. Dad baked a big cake.
A big cake was baked by Dad.
3. Caitlin decorated the table.
The table was decorated by Caitlin.
4. "Your big sister's collecting eggs."
"Eggs are being collected by your big sister."
5. Your bravery has set me free.
I have been set free by your bravery,
6. They all wanted rainbow clothes.
Rainbow clothes were wanted by them all.

Why do you think an author might choose to use the passive instead of the active voice?

The passive voice is used to draw attention to – or emphasise – the person or thing affected by the action being performed. It moves the focus away from the person or thing performing the action.

Now, write two sentences in the passive voice using the picture as a prompt.

Accept any sentences written correctly in the passive voice, for example:

- **The girl was illuminated by the sunlight.**
- **The eggs were laid by the hens.**