

Name: _____

Date: _____

Active & Passive Voice



- A verb is said to be in the active voice when the subject does the action.
- A verb is said to be in the passive voice when the sentence shows what is done to the subject.
- To change the active verb into passive, (1) use the verb "be" in the right tense (as the tense of the active verb) and the past participle of the main verb.

Example: It *ate* cheese. → Cheese *was eaten*.



Forms of verb "Be":

(present) = am, is, are

(past) = was, were

(present participle) = being

(past participle) = been

The past participle of a verb is:

- verb + ed (regular verbs)

decide → **decided**

- 3rd column in the list of irregular verbs

eat → **eaten**



b) Practice changing the underlined active verbs into passive.

1. James sent a letter. → A letter was sent by James.
2. Joe washes the car. → The car _____ by Joe.
3. Someone called the doctor. → The doctor _____.
4. Lana is watching a movie. → A movie _____.
5. Mr. Adams will do the job. → The job _____.
6. The students have written a test. → A test _____.
7. The child was reading a story. → A story _____.
8. I returned the books. → The books _____.
9. We must keep fruit fresh. → Fruit _____ fresh.
10. The flood destroyed the dam. → The dam _____.
11. Kim can play the guitar. → The guitar _____.
12. Sarah collects stamps. → Stamps _____.
13. Dad always fixes the car. → The car _____.
14. Mat threw the garbage. → The garbage _____.

a) Write the past participle of the verbs:

1. paint: _____
2. write: _____
3. buy: _____
4. try: _____
5. create: _____
6. drive: _____
7. draw: _____
8. wash: _____
9. catch: _____

How to change a sentence from active into passive voice?

Take this sentence as an example: subject verb object compliment
The hunter shot the birds yesterday.

1. Use the object of the active verb as the subject of the passive sentence.

○ *The birds ...*

Note: If the verb is a pronoun, make sure to change it to a subject pronoun.

me → I

him → he

her → she

them → they

us → we



2. Make the active verb passive. Use verb "to be" with the past participle of the main verb.

REMEMBER: DO NOT CHANGE TENSE.

○ *The birds were shot ...*

3. The new passive verb must agree in number with the new subject.

The hunter shot

the birds ...

The birds

were shot...