

Active and **passive verbs**

**What
was said
just now?**



Subject and object (revision)

What is the **subject** of each of these sentences?

The dog barked.

The dog bit me.

I bit the dog.

You must get off the bus.

This bus goes to Leeds.

I am a dog.

The dog barked.

The dog bit me.

I bit the dog.

You must get off the bus.

This bus goes to Leeds.

I am a dog.

Subject and object (revision)

What is the **object** of each of these sentences? Do they all have an object?

The dog barked.

The dog bit me.

I bit the dog.

You must go to Leeds on the bus.

I'm sharpening my pencil.

Get a new pencil.

The dog barked.

The dog bit **me**.

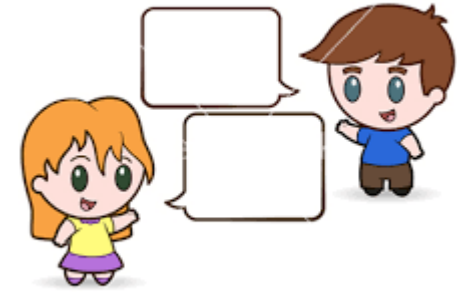
I bit **the dog**.

You must go to Leeds on the bus.

I'm sharpening **my pencil**.

Get **a new pencil**.

Discuss with a partner:



Every sentence must have a subject.

True or false?

If you think it's false, give an example of a correctly formed sentence which has **no subject**.

Example(s)
here



Discuss with a partner:

Every sentence must have an object.

True or false?

If you think it's false, give an example of a correctly formed sentence which has **no object**.

Example(s)
here

All in order...



object - subject - verb :

What is their usual order in an English sentence?

Subject

Verb

Object

Passive verbs

A passive verb lets us use the object of the action as the subject of the sentence.

The dog bit me. (active verb)

I was bitten by the dog. (passive verb)



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Turn these active verb sentences into passive verb sentences:

Bees make honey.

Honey is ...

The sun warmed and dried him.



A passing herd of buffalo nearly flattened us.

A projecting ledge of rock broke my fall.

Honey is made by bees.

He was warmed and dried by the sun.

We were nearly flattened by a passing herd of buffalo.

My fall was broken by a projecting ledge of rock.

Turn these passive verb sentences into active verb sentences:

My fall was broken by a
projecting
ledge of rock.

A projecting ledge of rock
broke my fall.



The robbers
were seen by
a member
of the public.

A member of
the public saw
the robbers.

Grammar corner

- Passive verbs can be in any tense: past, present, future and so on.
- That's why it is not called the passive "tense" but the **passive voice** of the verb.
- *Examples: It amuses me* – present tense, active voice.
- **I am amused** – present tense, passive voice.
- **I was amused** – past tense, passive voice.

Identify the tense and voice of the verbs in these sentences:

I missed the bus yesterday.

John will be asked to leave.

My hamster eats too much.

My hamster was eaten by the cat.

My ears were assailed by a howling noise.

The dog was howling.

Now create your own sentence using:

- **Present tense, active voice**
- **Past tense, passive voice**
- **Past tense, active voice**
- **Future tense, active voice**
- **Present tense, passive voice**
- **Future tense, passive voice**

Sentences with two objects

Find the **subject**, **verb** and **object** of this sentence:

My granny gave me a new game for my birthday.

My granny **gave** **me a new game** for my birthday.

What is the object: “me” or “a new game”?

How do we make this sentence passive?

Sentences with two objects

My granny gave me a new game for my birthday.

How do we make this sentence passive?

There are two ways because there are **two** objects.

“A new game” is called the **direct object** – it’s the thing that was given.

“Me” is called the **indirect object** – you are the person it was given to.

So we can say:

Sentences with two objects

A new game was given to me by my granny.

Or: I was given a new game by my granny.

Which one do you think sounds better?

Now turn these into passive verb sentences:

The head teacher awarded Abbie a prize.

Adult birds bring food to their chicks. (Careful with this one! You may need to change things a little to make it sound good.)

Style tips: (1) Don't overdo it!

What is this writer trying to say?

It is noted that your vehicle has been reported to have been parked improperly and you have consequently been issued with a penalty of £40 which must be paid in full within 30 days.

In plain English, this writer is saying four things:

1. You parked in the wrong place.
2. We are fining you £40.
3. Please pay within 30 days.
4. I am a pompous bureaucrat.

Style tips: (2) Use “be”, not “get”

In **spoken**

English, you

can hear

people

saying

things like:

“We got nicked,” or

“That’s how these

things get done.”



That’s OK in informal

speech – but **don’t use it**

in your writing, except in

dialogue.

In **standard written**

English, we use the

auxiliary verb (helping

verb) **“to be”** to form the

passive voice.

Not “to get”.

Rewrite these sentences, using the correct form of the passive voice for **standard written English**:

- I got stung by a wasp.
- Plants get pollinated by insects.
- Proteins get broken down by enzymes in our guts.
- Trespassers will get prosecuted.

Passive verb forms

What have we learned?

Tell your partner two things you now know about passive verbs.



Listening skills:

Be prepared to share with the class what your partner said to you.



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