

WALT use passive verbs.

WILF:

- Understand what a passive verb is and where it is used.
- Use passive verbs correctly in your writing.



Let's start with a video...

Please click the image to see the video about passive verbs.



Passive verbs are used in passive voice - they change the meaning of the sentence.

Instead of the subject (e.g. a cat) doing something (e.g. hitting a ball), the verb changes the sentence so that the subject is acted on by the verb... read on to find out more.

Passive and Active 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**.

These verbs are what you need to focus on to change the sentence meaning.

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.

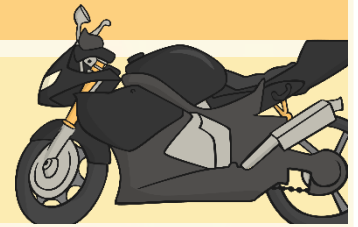
The **verb 'was'** is used again but this time 'ate' is changed to the past participle '**eaten**'.

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.

Test yourself...

Which sentence is written in the active voice?
How do you know?

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 handballs before the grand final.

Your Activity for today...

First, use 'Week 2. English. Wednesday Activity 1' to change the sentences from active to passive, focussing on your passive verbs. Only complete this until you feel confident.

Then, free write about anything you like, using the passive voice - passive verbs! 😊

Really focus on those passive verbs changing the meaning of the sentence.