

Active and Passive Sentences

A sentence is written in **active voice** when the subject of the sentence performs the action in the sentence.

e.g. **The girl was washing the dog.**

A sentence is written in **passive voice** when the subject of the sentence has an action done to it by someone or something else.

e.g. **The dog was being washed by the girl.**

Task One

Copy out each of these sentences and then write whether it is in **active** or **passive** voice. (*Hint: In these sentences look for the person who is carrying out the action*).

1. Mark was eating an apple.
2. The picture was painted by Bob.
3. Tina opened the present.
4. The phone was being used by Miss Subramaniam.
5. The card was made by Fred.
6. Johnny hit the tree with his stick.
7. The man jumped off the step.
8. Daniel was watching the birds.

Task Two

Copy out each of these sentences and then write whether it is in **active** or **passive** voice.

1. The key was used to open the door.
2. The frog ate a fly.
3. Jamie couldn't see the man.
4. The boy picked up the coin.
5. The egg was laid by the bird.
6. Susan found her car keys.
7. The policeman chased after Fred.
8. The car was fixed by the mechanic.
9. The pencil was sharpened by Gillian.
10. Mark was given a warning.

Task Three

These are all written in **passive** voice. Change each sentence into **active** voice.

1. The football was kicked by Luke.
2. The knife was left on the table by Julie.
3. The milk had been knocked over by a cat.
4. The car had been driven into a wall by a naughty child.
5. The windows had been washed by Dad.

Task Four

These are all written in **active** voice. **Change** each sentence into **passive** voice.

1. The actors had performed the play by Shakespeare.
2. A stone smashed the window.
3. The boys pushed the tree over.
4. James climbed the ladder.
5. Sam baked a big cake.
6. Fred told Johnny a lie.

Extension

Find examples of sentences written in **passive** voice in your reading book and the books in the class library. Can you change each of the sentences into **active** voice?