

# Verbs

a verb is a word that usually shows an action (bring, read), an occurrence (decompose, glitter), or a state of being (exist, is).

Verbs must agree with their subjects.

Active verbs are preferable to passive verbs.

## Active & Passive Verbs

### Active or Passive Voice

There are two forms for verbs called voice:

1. Active voice
2. Passive voice

The active voice is the "normal" voice. This is the voice that we use most of the time.

In the active voice, the emphasis is on the person or thing doing the action.

The object receives the action of the verb:

active	subject	verb	object
	Cats	eat	fish.

The passive voice is less common. In the passive voice, the subject receives the action of the verb:

passive	subject	verb	object
	Fish	are eaten	by cats.

active	Everybody	drinks	water.
passive	Water	is drunk	by everybody.

#### Clues to identifying passive verbs

- Passive verbs are often preceded by helping verbs (is, am, are, were, was, been).
- Passive verbs are often followed with "by."

When writing, you should always try to use active voice. Active verbs are more direct, more emphatic, and more concise than passive verbs.

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The following sentences are written in the passive voice.  
Rewrite them in the active voice.

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# Verbs

Identify whether the verbs are active or passive.  
Make sure you can describe how you knew.

1. Each of us told the group a story.
2. A tale of terror and bloodshed was narrated by Andrea.
3. Everyone was listening very carefully.
4. That rumor was started by Luis.
5. The story was repeated by Tomas.
6. He told his friends a different version.
7. They were both lying.
8. He is writing her an apology letter.

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# Active or Passive?

Identify whether each sentence is active or passive.

Make sure you can explain how you know.

1. I <sup>S</sup> dream <sup>V</sup> of going to galaxies light-years from Earth. <sup>O.</sup> A.
2. My <sup>D.O.</sup> daydreams are <sup>V</sup> often shattered <sup>O</sup> by reality. P
3. It was <sup>V</sup> raining outside all day long. A.
4. The constant rain <sup>S</sup> was <sup>V</sup> making <sup>P.O.</sup> me feel cold. A.
5. Many car accidents <sup>D.O.</sup> were <sup>V</sup> caused <sup>O</sup> by the rain. P.
6. Since it is raining, we will <sup>S</sup> not run in PE today. A.
7. The trash <sup>D.O.</sup> was <sup>V</sup> left on the ground <sup>O</sup> by the students. P.
8. The birds swooped <sup>S</sup> down and ate a lot of food <sup>D.O.</sup> from the Olive Bowl after lunch. A.

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