

English Home Language

Grade 8

Active and Passive

Verbs in active and passive voice

A verb is in the **active voice** when its subject does the action. For example: 'The striker scored a goal.' The subject is the striker and the striker is doing the action. To find the subject of a verb ask who or what does the action.

A verb is in the **passive voice** when the subject 'receives' the action: 'The goal was scored by the striker.' When a sentence is written in passive voice it is possible to leave out the 'doer' of the action: 'The goal was scored.'

Four steps to change a sentence from active voice to passive voice:

1. Underline the **verb** in the sentence.
2. Divide the sentence into a **Subject – Verb – Object**.
3. Begin the new sentence with the object.
4. The verb in the passive voice consists of the past participle form with some form of the verb 'to be' or, occasionally, the verb 'got' (for example, 'I was stung by a bee'.)

When you are asked to change a sentence from one voice to the other, make sure that you keep the tense of the original sentence. For example:

- **Present continuous tense**

Active voice: The striker is scoring a goal.

Passive voice: A goal is being scored by the striker.

- **Perfect tense**

Active voice: The striker has scored a goal.

Passive voice: A goal has been scored by the striker.

- **Simple future tense**
Active voice: The striker will score a goal.
- **Passive voice:** A goal will be scored by the striker.

Worked examples: Active and passive voice

1. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice starting with the given word (or words):

- 1.1 **Money provides financial freedom.** Start
with: Financial freedom... Correct
answer: Financial freedom is provided by money.
- 1.2 **Robert is training someone every week.** Start
with: Someone... Correct
answer: Someone is being trained by Robert every week.
- 1.3 **The 18-year-old had developed an illness causing paralysis.**
Start with An...
- Correct answer: An illness causing paralysis had been developed by the 18-year-old.

