

# ENGLISH

## Grammar: Voice



# Active and Passive Voice

## What does a Verb do?

A verb tells us more about:

- What a person or thing is doing.  
*Ishan runs.*      *The bell tolls.*
- What is done to a person or thing.  
*The children are loved.*      *The window is broken.*
- What a person or a thing is.  
*The dog is beaten.*      *The cake is eaten.*      *I feel sick.*

A verb can be used transitively or intransitively.

When a verb denotes an action passing from the doer (subject) to the object, it is a **Transitive Verb**.

- *The guard stopped the man.*
- *The child kicked the cat.*

When a verb denotes an action that does not pass from the doer (subject) to the object, it is an **Intransitive Verb**.

- *He spoke rudely.*
- *The guests arrived suddenly.*

A verb can be used in the active or the passive voice.

A verb is said to be in the **Active Voice** when the subject is the doer of the action.

- *Rustum made the bed for grandma.*

A verb is said to be in the **Passive Voice** when something is done by the subject.

- *Grandma's bed was made by Rustum.*

## Active and Passive Voice - Usage

- The active voice is used when  
The **subject** in the sentence needs to be highlighted.
  - *Durga killed the mosquitoes.*
- The passive voice is used when  
The **receiver of the action** in the sentence needs to be highlighted.
  - *The mosquitoes* were killed by Durga.

### NOTE:

The object of the verb in the active voice becomes the subject in the passive voice.

**Only** transitive verbs can be used in the passive voice.

Let us examine some sentences in the active and passive voice on the next page.

## Examples



**Active:** Mr Morris solved the case.

**Passive:** The case was solved by Mr Morris.



**Active:** Candy ate the cake.

**Passive:** The cake was eaten by Candy.



**Active:** Diya wrote a poem for her teacher.

**Passive:** A poem was written by Diya for her teacher.

**Active:** The guard shot the robber.

**Passive:** The robber was shot by the guard.



**Active:** Yesterday Meera called me for lunch.

**Passive:** Yesterday I was called for lunch by Meera.



**Active:** Rahul scored a zero in the match.

**Passive:** A zero was scored by Rahul in the match.

**Active:** Bad mood often spoils parties.

**Passive:** Parties are often spoilt by bad mood.

