

# Active and passive verb forms

## Part A – Recap on subject, verb, object: Link each word to its correct definition

Subject	person or thing that the action is done to
Object	an action, or a state of being
Verb	person or thing that does the action

The usual order of these in an English sentence is:

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## Part B – Passive verbs

Here are two sentences. Underline the subject of each sentence.

**Daniel broke his finger.**                      **Daniel's finger was broken.**

The person or thing that the action is done to, can be the **subject** of the sentence. Then we use a **passive** verb form.

To make a verb passive, use a “be” verb (*am, are, is, was, were, be*) with the **past participle** of the action verb (*broken, taken, helped, stolen, created, pleased, eaten ...*)

Use **by** to show the person or thing that does the action.

*Example:* The cat caught a mouse. (Active) / A mouse **was caught by** the cat. (Passive)

<b>I have been picked for the team.</b> passive?	– Is this active or	
<b>The manager picked his team carefully.</b> passive?	– Is this active or	

Rewrite each of the following sentences using a **passive form of the verb**.

- Greta skilfully milked the cow.
- Loggers cut down a giant redwood tree.
- The immune system defends the body from infection.
- The examiners will carefully mark your papers.
- A dog bit two children in the park.
- Roald Dahl wrote “The B F G”.
- Insects pollinate flowers.
- The earthquake destroyed many buildings.



Now rewrite these sentences using an **active** form of the verb:

- Philip was persuaded to come along by Gloria.
- The winning goal was scored by Kolbeinn Sigþórsson.

LO: To recognise and use passive verb forms

3. Drivers who break the speed limit will be caught by automatic cameras.
4. The field was ploughed by the farmer with his blue tractor.