

Active and Passive Voice

Active verbs

Verbs can have an **active** or **passive** voice. When a verb is **active**, the **subject** of the sentence is doing the action. For example:

The cat sat on the mat.

Here, cat is the **subject**, sat is the **active** verb, and the mat is the object.

Passive verbs

Contrast this with the **passive** voice of the verb:

The mat was sat on by the cat.

Here, the mat is the **subject** and is suffering the action of being sat on by the cat.

Complete the following table, inserting a check mark showing whether the verb is **active** or **passive**.

Verb	Active	Passive
The school arranged a visit.		
A visit was arranged by the school.		
The dog buried the bone.		
The bone was buried by the dog.		
The man painted the wall.		
The wall was painted by the man.		
The ball was thrown at the window by the naughty girl.		
The naughty girl threw the ball at the window.		
You must not run across the road.		
You could get run over!		

Active or Passive Voice - Answers

Verb	Active	Passive
The school arranged a visit.	✓	
A visit was arranged by the school.		✓
The dog buried the bone.	✓	
The bone was buried by the dog.		✓
The man painted the wall.	✓	
The wall was painted by the man.		✓
The ball was thrown at the window by the naughty girl.		✓
The naughty girl threw the ball at the window.	✓	
You must not run across the road.	✓	
You could get run over!		✓