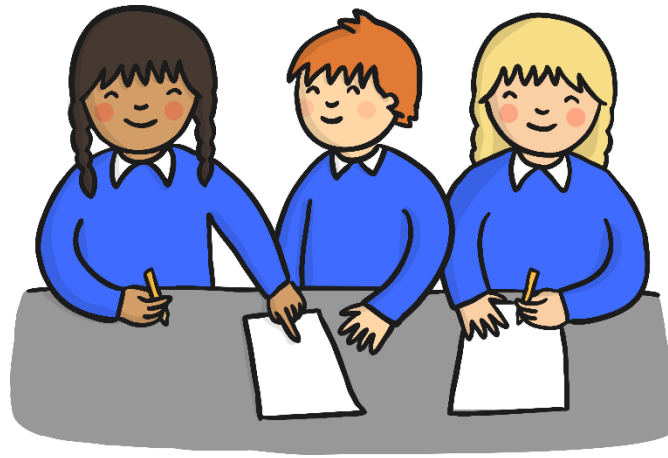


# ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE



An informative PowerPoint about how the passive voice can be used to affect the presentation of information in a sentence

LO: use passive verbs to affect presentation of information in a sentence

### SUCCESS CRITERIA:

- I know that formal writing should use a different style.
- I use the passive voice when *what happens* is more important than who did it.
- I make the passive voice using an auxiliary verb (BE) plus the past participle (3<sup>rd</sup> form) of the main verb.

# ACTIVE VOICE

You are the editor of *Bikes For Beginners* magazine. One of the writers has given you this text but you're not happy with it. Why does it sound wrong?

A mechanic attaches the pedals on a bike to a toothed wheel - the chain wheel. Someone else fixes a smaller wheel, which an engineer calls a sprocket, to the middle of the rear wheel of the bike. Another person in the shop connects the chain wheel and the sprocket using a linked chain. If anyone breaks the chain, the back wheel cannot turn.



# ACTIVE VOICE

It's because the writer has included **who did everything**.  
Does that information help us to understand how the bike works?

A mechanic attaches the pedals on a bike to a toothed wheel - the chain wheel.

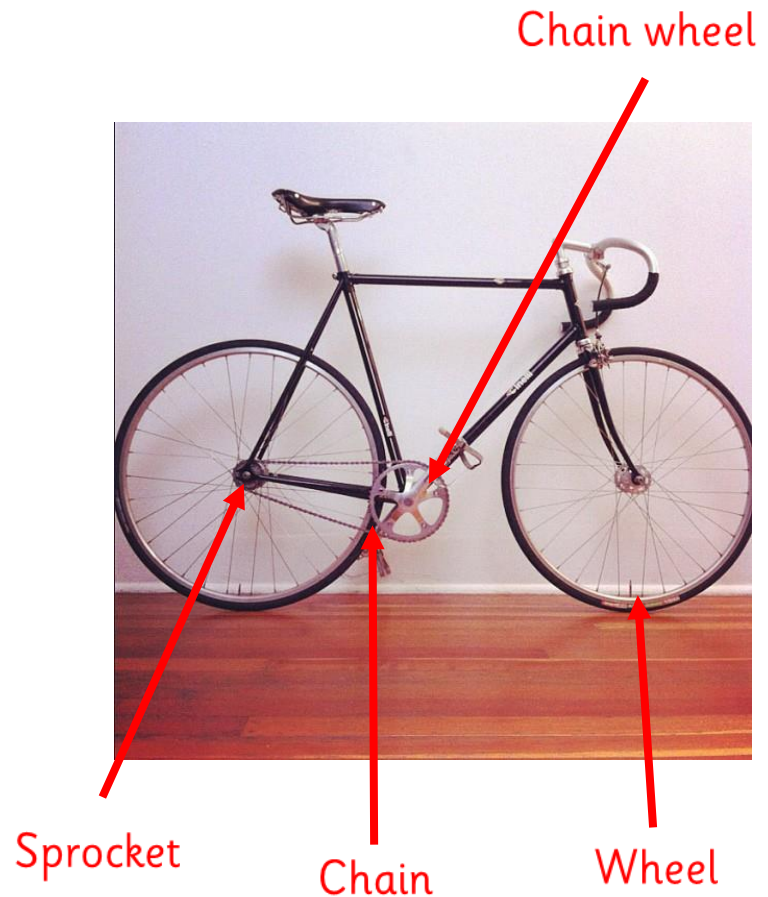
Someone else fixes a smaller wheel, which an engineer calls a sprocket, to the middle of the rear wheel of the bike. Another person in the shop connects the chain wheel and the sprocket using a linked chain. If anyone breaks the chain, the back wheel cannot turn.



# PASSIVE VOICE

**That's better – it's been edited now.  
What's the difference?**

The pedals on a bike are attached to a toothed wheel - the chain wheel. A smaller wheel, which is called a sprocket, is fixed to the middle of the rear wheel of the bike. The chain wheel and the sprocket are connected by a linked chain. If the chain is broken, the back wheel cannot turn.



# PASSIVE VOICE

Look at the **verbs**

The pedals on a bike **are attached** to a toothed wheel - the chain wheel. A smaller wheel, which **is called** a sprocket, **is fixed** to the middle of the rear wheel of the bike. The chain wheel and the sprocket **are connected** by a linked chain. If the chain **is broken** the back wheel cannot turn.

auxiliary verb 'be'

main verb in the  
past participle (3<sup>rd</sup>  
form)

**This is called the *passive voice*. We use it when what happens is more important than who or what did it.**

# PASSIVE OR ACTIVE VOICE?

## Active voice

We want to know who or what did the action.

## Passive voice

The action or event is more important than who did it.

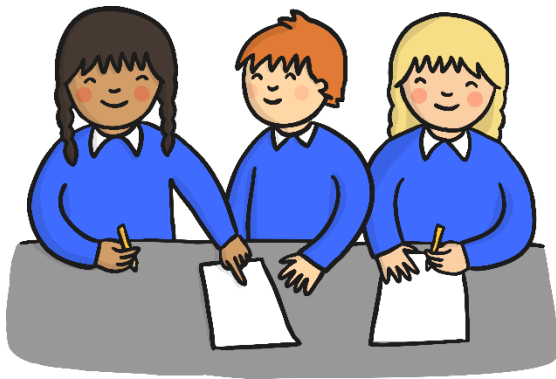
*Tigers* roam the jungle.

The jungle is roamed by tigers.

# PASSIVE OR ACTIVE VOICE?

## Active voice

We want to know who or what did the action.



We do our homework every week.

## Passive voice

The action or event is more important than who did it.



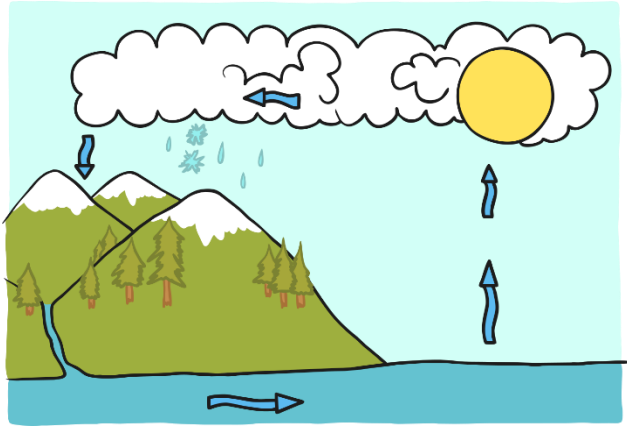
Your homework must be done by Monday.



# PASSIVE OR ACTIVE VOICE?

## Active voice

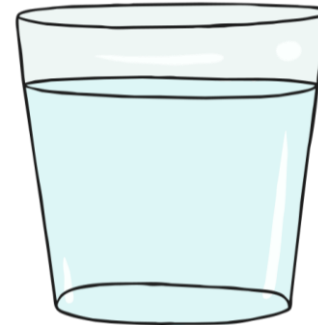
We want to know who or what did the action.



Water moves around the Earth by evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

## Passive voice

The action or event is more important than who did it.



Water is moved around the country through pipes, drains and sewers for people to use.

# PLENARY

## What have we learned?

The *passive voice* is used when what happens is more important than who or what did it. You can add 'who' if you want to give more detail.

SUBJECT	auxiliary (help) verb BE	past participle (3 <sup>rd</sup> form) VERB	COMPLEMENT extra phrase
• I	am	called	Sarah.
• All dogs	must be	kept	on a lead.
• She	has been	stung	by a wasp.
• These seeds	were	planted	last year.
• It	is	made	from leather.

SO, THAT'S HOW THE PASSIVE VOICE IS MADE!

THE END