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Subject and object

Name the parts of a sentence, and tell an **active** sentence from a **passive** one.

1 Learn



In an **active** sentence, the **subject** is who or what **does** the verb. The **object** is who or what the verb is **done to**.

Active	**The cat** (subject)	**chased** (verb)	**the mouse.** (object)
Passive	**The mouse** (subject)	**was chased** (verb)	**by the cat.** (who did it)

In a **passive** sentence, the subject has the action **done to it**. Who did it moves to the end, after **by**, or is left out.

Let's do one: "Leo kicked the ball."

1. Find the verb: **kicked**. Ask "Who kicked?" **Leo**: the subject.

2. Ask "Kicked what?" **the ball**: the object. The subject does the action, so it's **active**.

3. Make it passive: "**The ball was kicked by Leo.**" Now the ball is the subject.

Flip's tip: a passive verb uses a form of **be** (is, are, was, were, been) + a verb like **kicked** or **eaten**. A sentence in the past tense isn't passive just because it's in the past: "Leo kicked the ball" is past **and** active.

Warm up: underline the **subject**. Draw a ring round the **object**.

1. Mia painted a picture.

2. The dog chewed my shoe.

Grown-ups: keep asking "Who did it?" (subject) and "What did they do it to?" (object). Your child may also learn this in another game; here the focus is using the terms correctly.

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Action replay

You need: two soft toys, and a few things they can act on (a cup, a sock, a ball, a book).

1. Make one toy do something to a thing or the other toy: the teddy pushes the ball.
2. Say it as an **active** sentence: "The teddy pushed the ball." Name the subject and the object.
3. Now replay it in **passive**: "The ball was pushed by the teddy." What's the subject now?
4. Write both sentences in the table. Swap who does the acting.

Active sentence	Subject	Object	Passive sentence

Grown-ups: try one where the "who did it" is left out: "The sock was hidden." It's still passive. Ask "Who hid it? We don't know!"

3 Practise

A. Underline the **subject**. Draw a ring round the **object**.

1. Sam opened the window.
2. The hungry fox caught a rabbit.
3. My grandma knitted a scarf.
4. The children built an enormous sandcastle.

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B. Is each sentence **active** or **passive**? Write **A** or **P**.

1. The window was broken by a football. ☐
2. Yesterday, Ava baked a cake. ☐
3. The letters are delivered every morning. ☐
4. The team won the cup last year. ☐
5. All the biscuits were eaten. ☐

C. Rewrite each **active** sentence as a **passive** one.

1. The chef cooked the meal.

_____

2. Mia won the race.

_____

D. Rewrite this **passive** sentence as an **active** one.

The song was sung by the choir.

_____

_____

Challenge

Leo says, "'Yesterday, Ava baked a cake' is passive, because it happened in the past." Is he right? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

I can... Tick when you can.

- ☐ find the subject and the object in a sentence
- ☐ tell whether a sentence is active or passive
- ☐ explain that past tense doesn't mean passive