

# Active and passive



**Active** and **passive** versions of a sentence say the same thing in different ways.

**For example:** The pirates **hid** the treasure. ◀ **active**  
The treasure **was hidden** by the pirates. ◀ **passive**

In the **passive sentence** the words have been moved around. This sentence is about what happens to the treasure, rather than being about the actions of the pirates. The **verb** changes from the **active form (hid)** to the **passive form (was hidden)**.



1. Change these active sentences into **passive sentences**.

- a) The children put on a play.  
▶ A play was put on by the children.
- b) Everybody enjoyed the show.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- c) A fire destroyed the factory.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- d) A whistle silenced the crowd.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The sudden noise surprised Fatima.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_



2. Continue these **passive** sentences to reveal **who** was responsible for the events.

- a) The plate was broken by  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The bag of gold was stolen by  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The man was hurt by  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- d) The car was damaged by  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The lion was captured by  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_

# Active and passive



In a **passive sentence** you can hide the 'doer' of the action. This is useful when you do not know who it is or when it is not important.

**For example:** I **connected** the wires to the battery. ◀ **active**  
The wires **were connected** to the battery. ~~by me~~ ◀ **passive**  
– **who** did it is probably not important, so it can be left out of the sentence



3. Change the following sentences to the **passive form** and hide the person doing the actions.

- a) ~~People~~ used pigeons to send messages.  
▶ Pigeons were used to send messages.
- b) Someone annoyed the headteacher.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- c) We sent the letter to the Prime Minister.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Someone stole the pirates' treasure.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- e) I asked the people for their opinions.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_



4. In these sentences the **person** doing the action is **not important**. Write the sentences in the passive form.

- a) We watered the plants every day.  
▶ The plants were watered every day.
- b) Joe invited the Mayor to the show.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- c) We attached the wires to the battery.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Kavita added salt to the water.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The class discussed a lot of ideas.  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_