

# Verb voice

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A verb can be in the active or the passive voice. The voice of the verb tells whether the subject is doing the action (active voice), or whether something is being done to the subject (passive voice).

When the passive voice is used the verb may change a bit and a helping verb is added. In the following example, the verb changes from 'read' to 'was read':

Active voice: Gemma **read** the book.

Passive voice: The book **was read** by Gemma.

Make these sentences more direct by changing them into the active voice:

A big, hairy spider was pounced on by my dog.

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The activities are all chosen by the children in the group.

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The flowers were all picked by my Nan.

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Six goals were scored by Henry.

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The cat was frightened by the frog.

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Ten stickers were awarded to Kevin.

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**Talk about the two voices of each sentence. Decide which you think sounds or reads better. Discuss why.**

*Have children act out an action. Describe it in an active and passive voice. Talk about when it would be good to use the active voice and when a passive voice might be better.*