

LO: Active and passive voice

- ▶ John knocked a drink from his teacher's hand.
- ▶ A drink was knocked from the teacher's hand.

The passive voice is useful when we want to be **impersonal** or even **hide who has done something**.

It is often a **feature of formal writing** and found in newspaper articles.

Which of the two sentences above is active? Which is passive?

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- ▶ John knocked a drink from his teacher's hand. (**Active**)
- ▶ A drink was knocked from the teacher's hand. (**Passive**)

It is useful to use the passive voice to add suspense or mystery to your story or article.

By omitting (leaving out) details, you can engage your reader in your story.

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Change these active sentences into passive ones.

- ▶ Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*.
- ▶ Mo Farah won two gold medals for long distance running in the 2012 Olympics.
- ▶ Volunteers staff all the charity shops in this town.
- ▶ Everyone was looking for the lost puppy.
- ▶ Lack of fruit and vegetables in the diet can bring about health problems.
- ▶ The School Council will give careful consideration to all sensible suggestions.

Answers are on the next slide.

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Answers:

- ▶ *A Christmas Carol* **was written** by Charles Dickens.
- ▶ Two gold medals for long distance running **were won** by Mo Farah in the 2012 Olympics.
- ▶ All the charity shops in this town **are staffed** by volunteers.
- ▶ The lost puppy **was being looked for** by everyone.
- ▶ Health problems **can be brought about** by a lack of fruit and vegetables in the diet.
- ▶ Careful consideration **will be given** by the School Council to all sensible suggestions.

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Change these passive sentences into active ones.

(Sometimes you will need to invent who is doing the action.)

- ▶ The old school was demolished by the council soon after the war.
- ▶ This report was written by Inspector Trilby.
- ▶ Fuller was interrogated by the police for three hours.
- ▶ Drinking water must be given to cats by their owners.
- ▶ New students will be provided with time-tables and stationery.
- ▶ Autobiographies of celebrities are written by anonymous ghost-authors.

Answers are on the next slide.

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Answers:

- ▶ The council demolished the old school soon after the war.
- ▶ Inspector Trilby wrote this report.
- ▶ The police interrogated Fuller for three hours.
- ▶ Owners must give their cats drinking water.
- ▶ Time-tables and stationery will be provided **by teachers** to new students.
- ▶ Anonymous ghost-authors write autobiographies of celebrities.

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Read another article from Monday's newspaper.

Identify and write down three active and three passive sentences.