



## ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE

### Let's Talk About Sentences! - Classroom Discussion

Look at the questions below and talk about them together!

**Sentence 1:** The boy kicked the ball.

- **Question:** Who did the action?
- **Question:** What did the boy kick?
- **Question:** Is the sentence about the person or the thing?

**Sentence 2:** The ball was kicked by the boy.

- **Question:** What happened?
- **Question:** Which word is more important, "the boy" or "the ball"?

**Sentence 3:** The cat chased the mouse.

- **Question:** Who did the action?
- **Question:** What was chased?

**Sentence 4:** The bicycle was stolen.

- **Question:** Do we know who stole the bicycle?
- **Question:** Why do you think the sentence doesn't say who did it?

**Sentence 5:** The girl wrote a letter.

- **Question:** How can we change this sentence to focus on the letter?
- **Question:** What new words do you need to add to the sentence?

### *What Is the Active Voice?*

The **Active Voice** is the most common way to talk. It is simple and direct.

Think of it this way: The person or thing **doing** the action is at the start of the sentence.

- **Rule:** Who did it? Put them first.
- **Example:** **The girl** (who did it?) **kicked** the ball.
- Another Example: The dog (who did it?) ate my homework.

### *What Is the Passive Voice?*

The **Passive Voice** is different. It is used when we care more about the **thing that happened to** something, not who did it.

- **Rule:** What happened? Put that thing first.
- **Example:** The ball **was kicked** by the girl.
  - We care more about **the ball**.
- Another Example: My homework was eaten by the dog.
  - We care more about **the homework**.

### *When to Use Each One*

Why do we use the passive voice? Here are some simple reasons:

- When you **don't know** who did it.
  - **Example:** My wallet **was stolen**. (I don't know who stole it.)
- When it is **not important** who did it.
  - **Example:** The new road **was built** last year. (We don't care who built it.)
- When you want to **focus on the thing** that happened.
  - **Example:** The phone **was invented** in 1876. (The focus is on the phone, not the inventor.)

## Teacher's Key

**Sentence 1:** The boy kicked the ball.

- **Answers:** The boy did the action. The ball received the action. The sentence is about the person (the boy).

**Sentence 2:** The ball was kicked by the boy.

- **Answers:** The ball was kicked. The word "the ball" is more important because it is at the beginning of the sentence.

**Sentence 3:** The cat chased the mouse.

- **Answers:** The cat did the action. The mouse was chased.

**Sentence 4:** The bicycle was stolen.

- **Answers:** No, we don't know who stole it. The sentence doesn't say who did it because that person is unknown or not important.

**Sentence 5:** The girl wrote a letter.

- **Answers:** We can say, "A letter was written by the girl." We need to add "was" and "by."