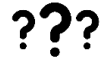


Active & Passive Verbs



What's the difference?

Active verbs...

...are direct, concise, and can prevent sentences from becoming too wordy.

Passive verbs...

...are less direct. Passive verbs will always have a form of the verb *be*. Examples of *be* verbs:

am was are
is were been

Examples

Active: Solomon **passed** the math exam.

This sentence is active because the subject (Solomon) performs the action (passing the math exam).

Passive: The math exam **was passed** by Solomon.

The be verb "was" makes this sentence passive because the action (was passed) comes before the subject (Solomon).

Active: Gloria **sits** on the bench while she **waits** for the bus.

This sentence is active because the subject (Gloria) performs the actions (sitting and waiting).

Passive: The bench is being sat on by Gloria while she waits for the bus.

The be verb phrase "is being sat on" is passive because the action (sitting) comes before the subject (Gloria).