## Active Voice vs. Passive Voice



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# **Active Voice**

- □ Is the normal voice.
- This is the voice that we use most of the time.
- The active voice is shorter and more direct:
  - Active: The waiter dropped the tray of food.
  - *Passive*: The tray of food was dropped by the waiter.

## **Active Voice**

- The active voice is less awkward and clearly states relationship between subject and action:
- Passive: Your request for funding has been denied by the review committee. Active: The review committee denied your request for funding.

### **Passive Voice**

- □ The passive voice is less usual.
- Passive voice is the voice used when the subject is the recipient of the action.
- Passive voice is usually wordier.

### **Passive Voice**

- The agent (doer) of the action is unimportant:
  The pyramids were built thousands of years ago.
- □ The agent is unknown:

Several robberies were committed during the night.

### Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

In active voice, the subject does the acting: The committee made the decision. In passive voice, the subject is acted upon: The decision was made (by the committee).

## **Active Voice**

In the active voice, the object receives the action of the verb:

active	subject	verb	object
	Cats	eat	fish.



### **Passive Voice**

In the passive voice, the subject receives the action of the verb:

subject	verb	object
Fish	are eaten	by cats.



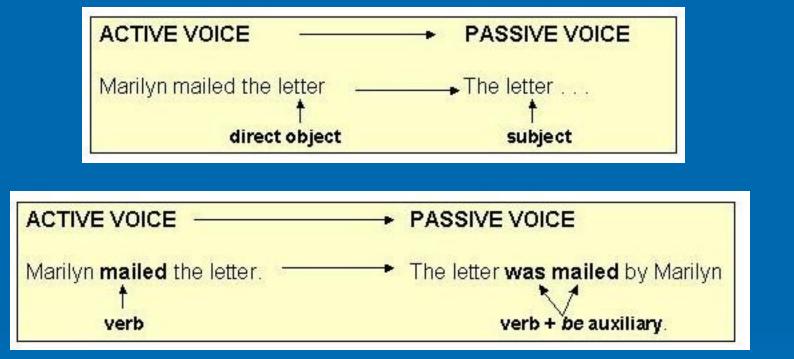
### Changing from active into passive

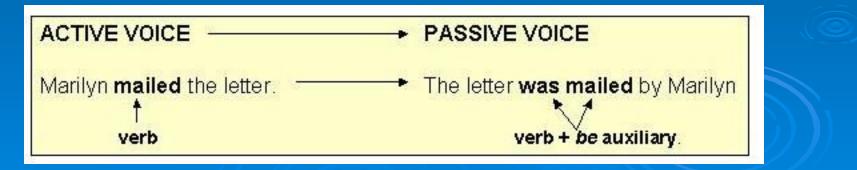
- The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
- The active verb remains in the same tense but changes into a passive form.
  The subject of the active sentence becomes the agent.

### Changing from active into passive

Active	Subject	Verb	Object
	Helen	did	the task.
	The teels		bullolop
Passive	The task	was made	by Helen.
	Subject	Verb	Agent

### Changing from active into passive





### Thanks for your attention ③