

The Passive Voice

In the active voice, the subject of the sentence **DOES the action:**

☒ **Jake writes a letter.**
subject / active verb / object

In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence **is acted upon:**

☒ **A letter is written by Jake.**
subject / passive verb / (object)

Notice that the **object** of the active sentence (A letter) became the **subject** of the passive sentence.

We include "**by** Jake" to say who did the action.

We do not include "**by...**" when:

☒ The doer of the action is **unknown**: *The money was stolen.*

☒ The doer of the action is "**people in general**": *Black cats are believed to bring bad luck.*

☒ The doer of the action is **completely unimportant**: *This bridge was built in 1889. (probably by a construction company)*

The passive voice is formed by **a form of the verb TO BE always in the form of the active verb + past participle of the main verb.**