

Active and passive

A In Standard English, it is more common to use the active voice because the passive voice makes the information longer and it can seem awkward. Sometimes, though, writers choose to use the passive voice for one of the reasons below. Match the reasons below. The first one has been done for you.

to make the tone	is not known
because the subject is not known	more exciting
to take the emphasis away from the subject because it is not as important as the object.	more formal
to make a narrative more exciting	it is not as important as the object

B Say whether the following sentences are active ('A'), passive ('P') or both ('B'). Circle the correct letters to give your answer. Then rewrite active sentences as passive and passive sentences as active in the space below.

1 A 500-year-old diamond necklace was found in an old piano. A / **P** B

2 In the final moment, Foden scored the winning goal for Manchester City!
A P / B

The winning goal for Manchester City was scored by Foden in the final moment.

3 The birthday cake has been eaten up by somebody. A / **P** B

4 Coats must be hung on the pegs provided. A / **P** B

5 The valuable vase was stolen by thieves in broad daylight. A / **P** B



6 Noodles should be eaten with chopsticks. A **P** B

7 Our maths teacher gave us loads of homework. **A** P / B

Loads of homework were given to us by our maths teacher.

8 I put the apple, which had been half eaten, in the bin. A / P **B**

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9 We saw a car that was being driven very fast by its owner. A / P **B**

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10 A girl aged five was saved by a zookeeper when she fell into the tiger enclosure. A / P **B**

Passive and active



C 1 Finish these sentences with a passive verb.

Example: A priceless painting was found in the cellar of a deserted, old house.

a A box of valuable jewels was stolen yesterday.

b A group of school children were lost in the middle of Paris.

c The tiger was captured a day after it escaped.

d Apples are said to be good for you.

e A lot of food was eaten at the party.

2 Make up three intriguing newspaper headings in the passive form.

Example: Parrot is seized after egging others on.
