

# Definition of Active Voice

Active Voice can be understood as the form of writing which depicts when the subject is carrying out the action indicated by the verb and takes the object directly. The subject is the person or thing which we are talking about, and the object is the person or thing to which the given action is targeted.

In an active voice, as the subject does the action directed by the verb, it is expressed as an agent of the main verb. Let's look at these examples, for better understanding:

- John likes Mary
- The policeman encountered the criminal.
- He steals the apple.
- Children are making a painting for a school exhibition.
- I was cooking food last night.

# Definition of Passive Voice

Passive Voice refers to the style of writing, which we use when instead of emphasizing the subject we put stress on the action, i.e. the verb and the object thereon.

Passive voice is also suitable when the actor is not known or is not important, or you want to lay emphasis on the person or thing on which the action took place. It can also be used when the discussion is made on a universal fact or truth. Take a glance at the examples given below:

- Mary is liked by John
- The criminal was encountered by the policeman.
- The apple is stolen by him
- Painting is being made by the children for school exhibition.
- Food was being cooked by me, last night.

# Difference Between Active Voice and Passive Voice

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In English Grammar, Voice is used to decide whether the verb is working actively or passively in a sentence. In this way, there are two broad classifications of voice, i.e. active voice and passive voice. If in a sentence, the subject acts as the doer of the action, then it is called as an **active voice**.



On the other hand, if the subject acts as the target or recipient of the action performed, then the voice is called as **passive voice**. Now, let's look at these examples to understand them correctly:

- *Active*: Maria followed the thief.  
*Passive*: The thief was followed by Maria.
- *Active*: She told me the truth.  
*Passive*: The truth was told to me by Maria.

In the given examples, you might have noticed, that when the sentence is in the active voice, the focus is on the subject, but when we converted the sentence to passive voice, the focus is shifted to the action.