

Using the Passive Voice to Affect the Presentation of a Sentence

In a passive sentence, the 'thing' that would normally be the object is turned into the subject by the passive use of the verb.

Passive sentences use an auxiliary verb followed by a past participle verb form.

Passive Verb Form

The car was driven by Tom.

The grapes were picked by the gardener.

The fox was chased by the yapping dog.

Fines are issued by the courts.

Photographs were taken by dad.

This path was laid in 1905.

Tina's book is being marked by Miss Gee.

The victim was bitten by a vampire.

Jack was given a warning by the referee.

The songs are performed by the school choir.

Active Verb Form

Tom drove the car.

The gardener picked the grapes.

The yapping dog chased the fox.

The courts issue fines.

Dad took photographs.

They laid this path in 1905.

Miss Gee is marking Tina's book.

A vampire bit the victim.

The referee gave Jack a warning.

The school choir performs the songs.