



Literacy & Language
Age 8-11

Passive and active voice

- Using passive voice in a sentence



● Previous learning required

- How to identify the subject and verb in a sentence
- How to use active voice in a sentence

● Learning outcomes

- How to use passive voice in a sentence

● Equipment

- A natural area for making observations
- A way to record ideas (e.g. clipboards, whiteboards, a camera)

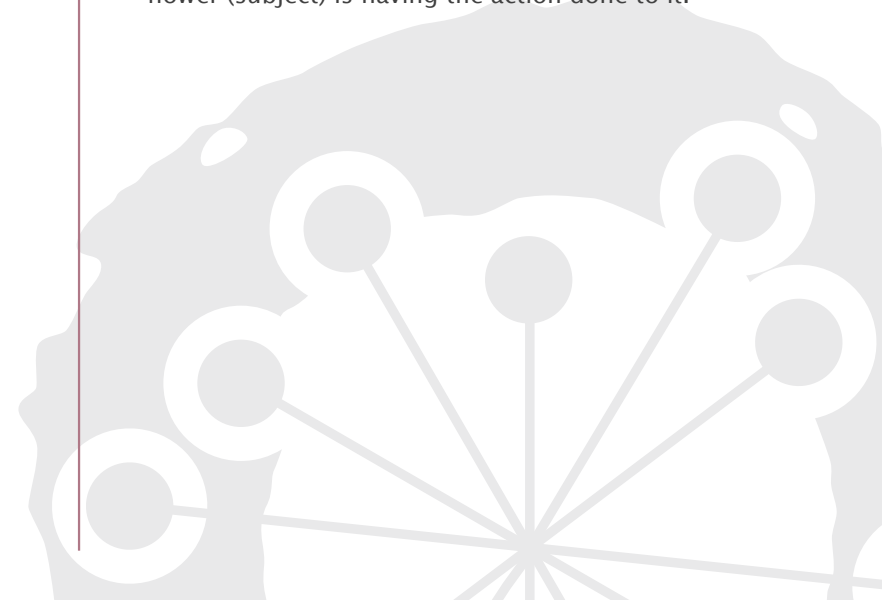
● Activity

1. Using a space where there is lots of natural activity (e.g. flowers, trees, a pond), ask pupils to sit individually and watch what is happening in a given area.
2. Encourage pupils to record their observations by taking notes or photographs, or drawing pictures of what they see.
3. Ask pupils to describe their observations to a partner or small group, switching between active and passive sentences. For example:
 - The bee pollinated the flower.
 - The flower was pollinated by the bee.
4. Ask pupils to identify active and passive sentences, encouraging them to debate which is most appropriate and effective for a given observation. For example, is the bank being eroded by the animals or are the animals eroding the bank? There are no right or wrong answers!

● Check for understanding

1. Ask pupils to change these sentences from active to passive voice:
 - The fly annoyed the teacher.
→ **The teacher was annoyed by the fly.**
 - The bird disturbed the bush.
→ **The bush was disturbed by the bird.**
 - Some sunshine broke through the clouds.
→ **The clouds were broken by some sunshine.**
2. Ask pupils to identify which of these sentences is written in the passive voice:
 - The child chased the butterfly.
 - The flower was blown in the wind.
 - The ladybirds climbed up the tree stump.

'The flower was blown in the wind' is passive as the flower (subject) is having the action done to it.



Learning
through
Landscapes

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: l.tl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training