

Verbs . . .

Forms of Verbs

726.1 Active or Passive Voice

The voice of a verb tells you whether the subject is doing the action or is receiving the action. A verb is in the active voice (in any tense) if the subject is doing the action in a sentence. (See page 482.)

I dream of going to galaxies light-years from Earth.

I will travel in an ultra-fast spaceship.

A verb is in the passive voice if the subject is not doing the action. The action is done *by* someone or something else. The passive voice is always indicated with a helping verb plus a past participle or a past tense verb.

My daydreams often are shattered by reality. (The subject *daydreams* is not doing the action.)

Of course, reality can be seen differently by different people. (The subject *reality* is not doing the action.)

Tense	Active Voice		Passive Voice	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Present Tense	I find you find he/she/it finds	we find you find they find	I am found you are found he/she/it is found	we are found you are found they are found
Past Tense	I found you found he found	we found you found they found	I was found you were found he/she/it was found	we were found you were found they were found
Future Tense	I will find you will find he will find	we will find you will find they will find	I will be found you will be found he/she/it will be found	we will be found you will be found they will be found
Present Perfect	I have found you have found he has found	we have found you have found they have found	I have been found you have been found he/she/it has been found	we have been found you have been found they have been found
Past Perfect	I had found you had found he had found	we had found you had found they had found	I had been found you had been found he/she/it had been found	we had been found you had been found they had been found
Future Perfect	I will have found you will have found he will have found	we will have found you will have found they will have found	I will have been found you will have been found he/she/it will have been found	we will have been found you will have been found they will have been found

Verbs 5

■ Active or Passive Voice



Write whether each sentence below is in the active or passive voice.

1. Marta is going to run in a marathon.
active
2. The distance of a marathon, 26.2 miles, can be driven in about half an hour by someone going 60 miles per hour.
3. Marta has already spent 15 weeks getting ready.
4. She will finish her training in the next six weeks.
5. Marta was told by her doctor that she is in great shape.
6. Stretches are done by all the runners before they compete.
7. First-time competitors are advised by experienced runners to go slow and save up their energy.
8. A runner's endurance is improved by this strategy.
9. During a race, many runners walk for a minute or two to get a little rest.
10. Some people are energized by running a long distance.
11. I would only feel exhausted!
12. Two benefits of running in marathons are increased energy and a sense of accomplishment.

Next Step: Choose two or three of the sentences above that you marked "passive" and rewrite them in the active voice.