

## Using Passive Voice to Find a Direct Object

A direct object is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of a verb. Put another way, the verb acts upon the direct object.

### Example 1: My mother drove the car.

In the example the car receives the action from the verb *drove*. The direct object is *car*.

Passive voice is a way to construct a sentence where the direct object is written as the subject of the sentence.

The car was driven by my mother.

The meaning is the same, but Example 1 is active voice, where the subject of the sentence is performing the action. Example 2 is passive voice, where the subject, formerly the direct object, is not performing any action.

Changing a sentence to passive voice is a way to easily find the direct object in a sentence.

Below are sentences written in active voice. Rewrite each one in passive voice. Then write the direct object in the blank.

1. The dog bit the man. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Robert gave a speech yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We called Maria on the phone. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The artist painted a picture of trees. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The choir sang a song at the concert. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Shelly kicked me the soccer ball. \_\_\_\_\_
7. They called the police to report the crime. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Her aunt bought her a diamond ring for her birthday. \_\_\_\_\_

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Passive voice is a way to construct a sentence where the direct object is written as the subject of the sentence.

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Below are sentences written in active voice. Rewrite each one in passive voice. Then write the direct object in the blank.

**Answers: Actual student answers may vary. Example of correct answers:**

1. The dog bit the man. \_\_\_\_\_ **man** \_\_\_\_\_

**The man was bitten by the dog.**

2. Robert gave a speech yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_ **speech** \_\_\_\_\_

**A speech was given by Robert yesterday.**

3. We called Maria on the phone. \_\_\_\_\_ **Maria** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maria was called on the phone by us.**

4. The artist painted a picture of trees. \_\_\_\_\_ **picture** \_\_\_\_\_

**A picture of trees was painted by the artist.**

5. The choir sang a song at the concert. \_\_\_\_\_ **song** \_\_\_\_\_

**A song was sung at the concert by the choir.**

6. Shelly kicked me the soccer ball. \_\_\_\_\_ **ball** \_\_\_\_\_

**The soccer ball was kicked to me by Shelley.**

7. They called the police to report the crime. \_\_\_\_\_ **police** \_\_\_\_\_

**The police were called by them to report the crime.**

8. Her aunt bought her a diamond ring for her birthday. \_\_\_\_\_ **ring** \_\_\_\_\_

**The diamond ring was bought for her by her aunt for her birthday.**