

Topic 2: Active and Passive Voice (Introduction)

Chapter 1: Tenses and Voice · Topic 2

Key Concept

In active voice, the subject does the action, like 'The cat chased the mouse,' where the cat performs the chasing.

In passive voice, the subject receives the action, like 'The mouse was chased by the cat,' shifting focus to the mouse.

Passive voice is formed using a form of 'be' plus the past participle of the verb, like 'was chased' or 'is being written.'

Active voice is often clearer and more direct, while passive voice is useful when the doer is unknown or less important.

Quick Revision Notes

- Active voice: subject performs action.
- Example: 'The cat chased the mouse.'
- Passive voice: subject receives action.
- Example: 'The mouse was chased by the cat.'
- Passive uses 'be' + past participle.
- Example: 'was chased'.
- Active voice is clearer, more direct.
- Passive voice used when doer is unknown/less important.

Practice Questions

- 1 Change 'The dog bit the man' to passive voice.
- 2 Change 'The cake was eaten by Tom' to active voice.
- 3 Write an active voice sentence.
- 4 Write a passive voice sentence.
- 5 Discuss when passive voice is useful.
- 6 Identify the voice in 'The letter was written by her.'