

Using the Passive

Recognising the Passive Form

Passive sentences contain passive versions of active verbs.
e.g. 'was driven' is the **passive form** of the **active** verb drive.

Passive sentences use the **past participle** verb form. These verb forms cannot be used on their own; they are linked to another verb in the sentence, like:

be, was, will, were, is, get, got.

The thing that would normally be the object in an active sentence becomes the subject in a passive one.

In passive sentences, the normal subject is sometimes used in a prepositional phrase.

The normal object is used as the **subject**.

The **past participle** of the active verb 'drive' is used.

The normal subject is used in a **prepositional phrase**.

The **limousine** **was driven** **by the chauffeur**.

'driven' cannot stand on its own, it needs to be combined with another verb.

'by' is the preposition at the head of the prepositional phrase.

The active version of this sentence would be:

The **chauffeur** **drove** the **limousine**.

subject

verb

object