

# Macbeth: Act 1

## Year 5 and Year 6

### Grammar Exercise: Passive Verbs

**You use passive verbs to affect the presentation of information in a sentence:** when the **subject** of a sentence isn't doing something, the **verb** is passive.

**Subject** → **Person or thing that does the action**

**Object** → **Person or things that the action is done to**

**Verb** → **An action, or state of being**

When the **subject** of the sentence is performing the action a sentence is written in **active** voice.

When the subject of a sentence has something done to it by someone or something the sentence is written in the **passive** voice.

For example;

**Benvolio** **shouted** at **everyone** to stop fighting! → **ACTIVE**  
(subject) (verb) (object)

**Everyone** was **shouted** at by **Benvolio** to stop fighting! → **PASSIVE**  
(object) (verb). (subject)

Useful video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zsx2b82>

Exercise 1. Read each sentence.

Write next to it whether it is Passive or Active

1. Macbeth was persuaded to kill King Duncan by Lady Macbeth. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Lady Macbeth persuaded Macbeth to kill King Duncan. \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. The battle was won by the Scots. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. The Scots won the battle. \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. The Thane of Cawdor betrayed King Duncan. \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. King Duncan was betrayed by the Thane of Cawdor \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. The witches told Macbeth he would become the Thane of Cawdor.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Macbeth was told by the witches that he would become the Thane of Cawdor.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. A letter was sent by Macbeth to his wife, Lady Macbeth.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
10. Macbeth sent a letter to his wife, Lady Macbeth. \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. Lady Macbeth suggests that Macbeth kills King Duncan.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
12. It is suggested by Lady Macbeth that Macbeth should kill King Duncan.  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Exercise 2: Re write each sentence in the passive voice

1. The witches say Macbeth will be Thane of Cawdor.

Macbeth will be Thane of Cawdor say the witches.

2. Macbeth sees three strange figures on the heath.

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3. King Duncan is betrayed by his old friend.

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4. The Scots hate the Norwegians.

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5. King Duncan looks for the Captain.

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6. Macbeth writes a letter.

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ANSWERS

**Exercise 1. Read each sentence.**

**Write next to it whether it is Passive or Active**

13. Macbeth was persuaded to kill King Duncan by Lady Macbeth. PASSIVE
14. Lady Macbeth persuaded Macbeth to kill King Duncan. ACTIVE
15. The battle was won by the Scots. PASSIVE
16. The Scots won the battle. ACTIVE
17. The Thane of Cawdor betrayed King Duncan. ACTIVE
18. King Duncan was betrayed by the Thane of Cawdor PASSIVE
19. The witches told Macbeth he would become the Thane of Cawdor. ACTIVE
20. Macbeth was told by the witches that he would become the Thane of Cawdor  
PASSIVE
21. A letter was sent by Macbeth to his wife, Lady Macbeth. PASSIVE
22. Macbeth sent a letter to his wife, Lady Macbeth. ACTIVE
23. Lady Macbeth suggests that Macbeth kills King Duncan. ACTIVE
24. It is suggested by Lady Macbeth that Macbeth should kill King Duncan.  
PASSIVE

**Exercise 2: Re write each sentence in the passive voice**

7. The witches say Macbeth will be Thane of Cawdor.  
**Macbeth will be Thane of Cawdor say the witches.**
8. Macbeth sees three strange figures on the heath.  
**Three strange figures are seen by Macbeth on the heath.**
9. King Duncan is betrayed by his old friend.  
**His old friend betrays King Duncan**
10. The Scots hate the Norwegians.  
**The Norwegians are hated by the Scots**
11. King Duncan looks for the Captain.  
**The Captain is looked for by King Duncan**
12. Macbeth writes a letter.  
**A letter is written by Macbeth**