

"Let me get this straight," said Mrs Rose doubtfully. "A cat spoke to you?"

"Yep!" AJ replied simply.

"You were spoken to by a cat! Is that what you're saying?" she said rephrasing the question as if that would produce a different answer.

"Lucifer spoke to me, yes, Mrs Rose," AJ confirmed.

"He can't have done!" she said realistically. "Cats don't speak!"

Amber believed AJ. "What did he say to you?" she asked.

"Children must not touch cats!" AJ said precisely.

"Cats must not be touched by children!" repeated Mrs Rose incredulously, using the passive voice for added effect.

"Are you sure that's what he said?" Amber asked.

"Then he told me to clear off, but in a very rude way," AJ recalled miserably.

"It's just a cat, Aubrey," said Mrs Rose. "You can't have been told to clear off by a cat. Now, I don't want to hear any more about it." Although she was dismissive of AJ's claims, Amber realised that she too was unsettled by the incident.

The tools having been put away, and their hands washed, the two children headed back to their class. When they entered the classroom they were surprised to find that the class was being taught by Miss Vile.

"Miss Philips has had to leave our school," explained Miss Vile.

"I shall be teaching you until a replacement teacher can be found." The children moaned. They had all liked Miss Philips. It was a shock to find out that she had left so unexpectedly.

She had taught at St Augustine's for over ten years so it was odd that she would leave so suddenly and without saying goodbye to the children. "Take out your silent reading books," instructed Miss Vile. "I want to see what nonsense you children are reading." She then began to prowl around the tables examining what each child was reading. She didn't seem to approve of any of the books that the children had chosen. She criticised the books for being poorly written, or unrealistic or even childish. She sent some of the children to the library to find more appropriate books. She then stood behind AJ. He was reading an amusing story about a fox and its exploits to outwit three farmers. "What twaddle is this?" she cried. "A talking fox! Children of your age should not be filling their heads with such drivel. We all know very well that animals can't talk. Aubrey Jones, go and wait outside my office. I need a word with you."





I can use the passive voice.

The **active** and **passive** voice are two ways of giving the same information.

The cat scratched the boy. This sentence uses the active voice. The cat does the action.

The boy was scratched by the cat. This sentence uses the passive voice. The boy had the action done to him.

Write whether each sentence is active or passive.

- 1 The cat spoke to AJ.
- 2 AJ was spoken to by the cat.
- 3 The tools were put away by the children.
- 4 The children put away the tools.
- 5 The children left the door open.
- 6 The door had been left open by the children.



Rewrite these active sentences using the passive voice.

- 7 **They washed their hands with soap.**
Their hands
- 8 **Miss Vile was teaching the class.**
The class
- 9 **All the children liked Miss Philips.**
Miss Philips
- 10 **Miss Vile inspected all their books.**
Their books

Extension How many sentences in the passage have been written using the passive voice?





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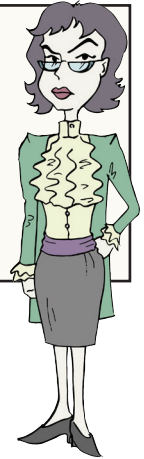


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- 8 Miss Vile was teaching the class.
.....
- 9 All the children liked Miss Philips.
.....

Write these sentences using the active voice:

- 10 The books were inspected by Miss Vile.
.....
- 11 AJ had been sent to the office by Miss Vile.
.....

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