**Active and passive verb forms**

**Part A – Recap on subject, verb, object:** Link each word to its correct definition

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject |  | person or thing that the action is done to |
|  |  |  |
| Object |  | an action, or a state of being |
|  |  |  |
| Verb |  | person or thing that does the action |

The usual order of these in an English sentence is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

**Part B – Passive verbs**

Here are two sentences. Underline the subject of each sentence.

**Daniel broke his finger. Daniel’s finger was broken.**

Sometimes the person or thing that the action is done to appears as the **subject** of the sentence. Then we use a **passive** verb form.

To make a verb passive, use a form of the verb “to be” (*am, are, is, was, were, be*) with the **past participle** of the action verb (*broken, taken, helped, stolen, created, pleased, eaten ...*)

Use the preposition ***by*** to indicate the person or thing that does the action.

Rewrite each of the following sentences using a passive form of the verb.

1. Greta skilfully passed the ball.
2. The loggers cut down part of the Amazon rainforest.
3. The immune system defends the body from infection.
4. The examiners will carefully watch the dancers.
5. A lion bit a gazelle by the watering hole.

Now rewrite these sentences using an **active** form of the verb:

1. Philip was persuaded to come along by Gloria.
2. Drivers who break the speed limit will be caught by automatic cameras.
3. The pasta was purchased by the chef for the restaurant.

**Part C: What helping verb do we use?**

In informal conversation, it’s OK to use *“get /got”* – for example, “It got broken.” But in **standard written English**, you **must** use “be / is /are” etc: “It **was** broken.”

**Don’t use *get / got* in your writing!**

Turn the following sentences into **standard** written English, keeping the passive verbs.

1 . Flowers get pollinated by insects. 2. We nearly got caught by the caretaker. 3. Metamorphic rocks get made by getting crushed or heated underground.