

Passive Voice: Verbs Not Used in the Passive

Transitive verbs (such as *buy, love, or give*) always take objects. It is incorrect, for example, to say “*I bought yesterday.*” because necessary information, the object, is missing. “*I bought the ticket yesterday.*” would be correct. **TRANSITIVE VERBS ARE USED IN THE PASSIVE.**

Intransitive verbs (such as *swim, happen, or sleep*) never take objects. **INTRANSITIVE VERBS ARE NOT USED IN THE PASSIVE.**

Be careful: Some verbs have both a **transitive** and **intransitive** form. For example, “work”. *He worked the crowd* (Transitive). *The oven doesn't work* (Intransitive). They can be used in the passive only in their transitive use.

Linking verbs (such as *be, feel, become*) take a complement. **LINKING VERBS ARE NOT USED IN THE PASSIVE.**

The following verbs are often confused because of similar spellings and meanings, but they are grammatically different. Some are **transitive**, others are **intransitive**.

Intransitive: **lie, lay, lain**

to recline in a horizontal position
*The cat is **lying** on the bed.*

Transitive: **lay, laid, laid**
+ OBJECT

to place something down
*The mother **laid** the baby on the bed.*

Intransitive: **rise, rose, risen**

to come up
*The sun **rises** in the east.*

Transitive: **raise, raised, raised** + OBJECT

to put something up
***Raise** your hand if you have any questions.*

Intransitive: **sit, sat, sat**

to assume a resting position, such as on a chair
*John always **sits** in the back of the room.*

Transitive: **set, set, set** + OBJECT

to place or put something in a desired position
*She **set** the alarm to ring at six o'clock.*

Advanced 2 – Exercise 2 – Passive Voice: Verbs Not Used in the Passive

Make PASSIVE sentences with the following words if possible. If not, make an ACTIVE sentence. Be careful, some verbs are TRANSITIVE and INTRANSITIVE or TRANSITIVE and LINKING. If that is the case, use the TRANSITIVE form to make a passive sentence.

1. lie _____

2. feel _____

3. grow _____

4. raise _____

5. sit _____

6. rise _____

7. make _____

8. be _____

9. lay _____

10. work _____

11. study _____

12. set _____
