

# Formal language

## Active and passive

Actions can be written in the **active voice** or the **passive voice**.

In the active voice the action is done by a subject:

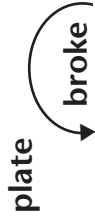
**Gran broke the plate.**

*Subject Verb*

This usually involves the subject (who does the verb) moving to after the verb (and becoming the agent):



and the object (to whom the verb was done) moving to before the verb (and becoming the subject):



The verb has a word like 'was' or 'were' added and the word 'by' to show who did the action

*was*  
**The plate broken by Gran.**

For example

**The plate was broken by Gran.**

In the passive voice the action is done to a subject:

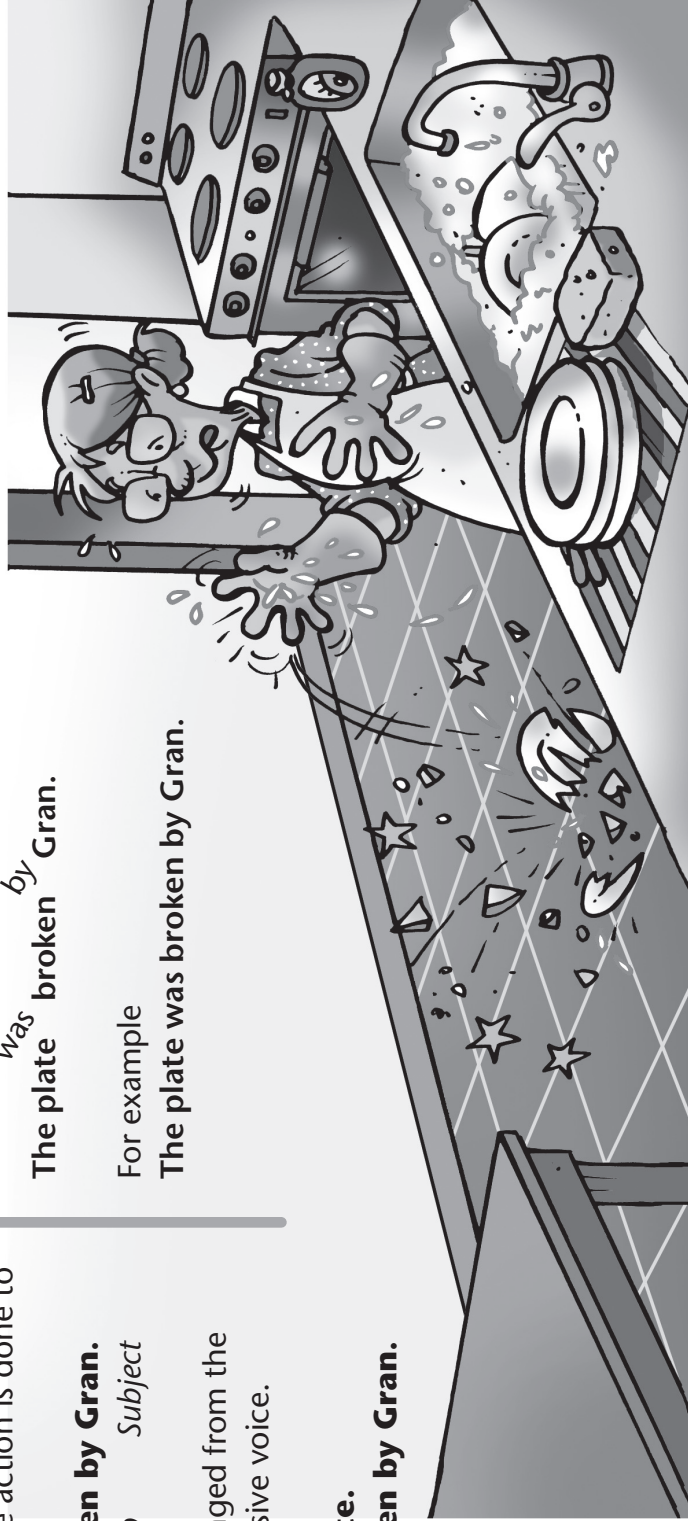
**The plate was broken by Gran.**

*Verb Subject*

Sentences can be changed from the active voice to the passive voice.

**Gran broke the plate.**

**The plate was broken by Gran.**



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