

Grammar: Passive verbs

Overview

Active verbs are those where the subject, expressed in the nominative case, *does* something.

The teachers *instruct* the students.

Passive verbs are those where something *is done to* the subject.

The students *are instructed by* the teachers.

If there is an agent in the sentence, then they are expressed using the ablative case. So:

The students are instructed

no agent

discipuli docentur

The students are instructed *by the teachers*

agent = teachers

discipuli magistris docentur

These verbs follow the same basic rules as regular active verbs, but take a separate set of endings.

The basic endings are: *-r, -ris, -tur, -mur, -mini, -ntur*. These are added on to the same patterns as for active verbs.