

Verbs: Active and Passive Voice

- A verb in the active voice indicates that the nominative (subject) is performing the action.
- A verb in the passive voice indicates that the nominative (subject) is being acted upon.

The passive voice has its own set of personal endings:

	Active Endings	Passive Endings
1 sg.	-ō, -m	-or, -r
2 sg.	-s	-ris
3 sg.	-t	-tur
1 pl.	-mus	-mur
2 pl.	-tis	-mini
3 pl.	-nt	-ntur

Study the following examples, comparing the active forms to the passive:

- Laudō *I praise*
- Laudor *I am praised*
- Tū audīs *You hear*
- Tū audīris *You are heard*
- Māter vocat *The father calls*
- Māter vocātur *The mother is called*
- Portāmus *We carry*
- Portāmur *We are carried*
- Vulnerātis *You wound*
- Vulnerāmini *You are wounded*
- Mittunt *They send*
- Mittuntur *They are sent*

NB: Not all verbs can be passive; only transitive verbs can. It would not make sense for an intransitive verb to be passive. For example:

- Cadit *He falls* (intransitive, i.e. does not take a direct object)
- *Caditur* This would not make sense. Someone can fall, but that action can not be done to someone.