

DBS 2B

**ACTIVE AND PASSIVE
VOICE**



Active Voice, Passive Voice

There are two special forms for verbs called voice:

- 1. Active voice
- 2. Passive voice



- **The active voice** is the "normal" voice. This is the voice that we use most of the time. You are probably already familiar with the active voice. In the active voice, **the object** receives **the action** of the verb:



active	subject	verb	object
			>
	Cats	eat	fish.



- **The passive voice** is less usual.
In the passive voice, **the subject receives the action of the verb:**



subject

verb

object

passive

<

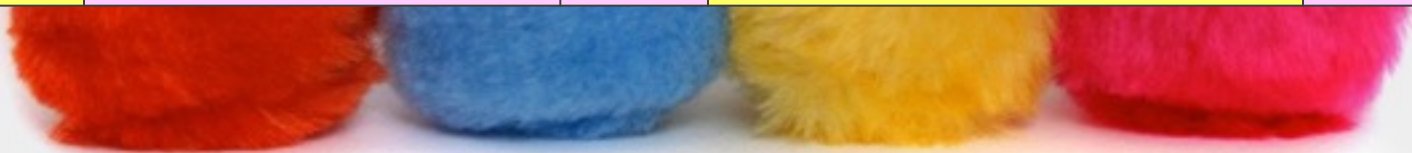
Fish

are
eaten

by cats.

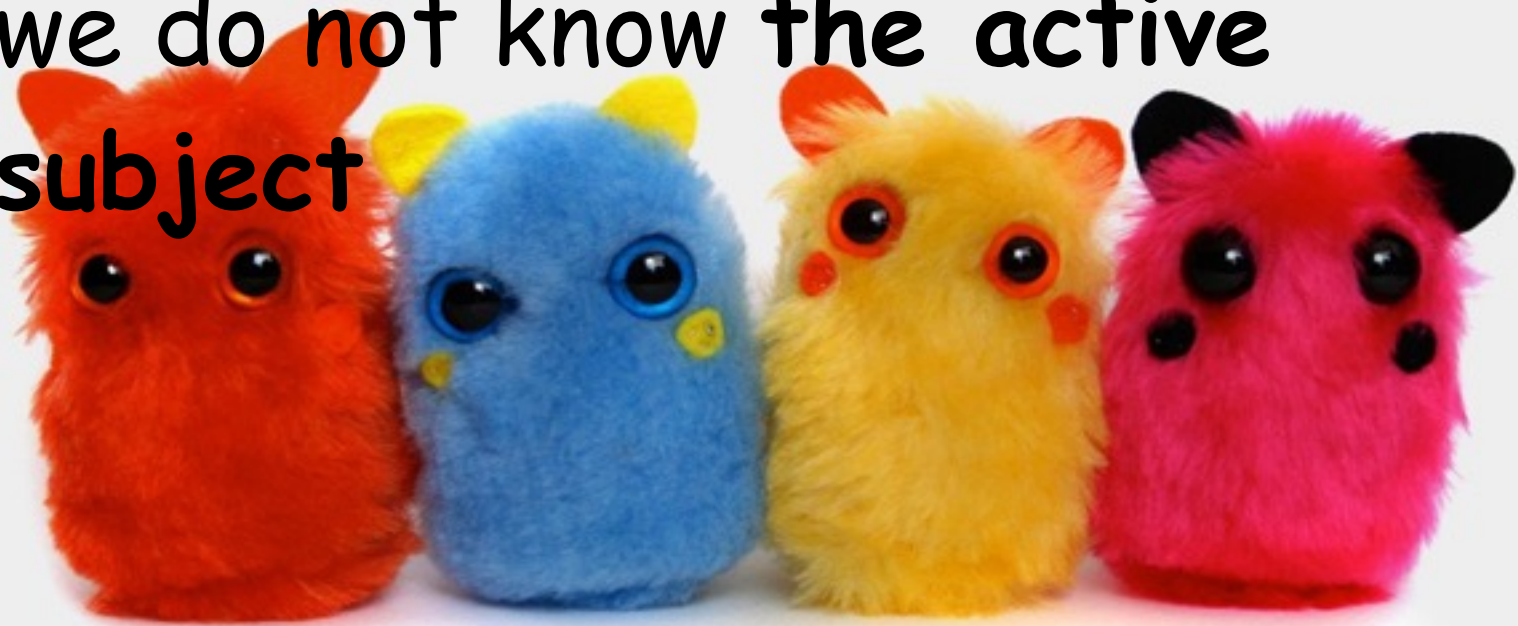


subject	auxiliary verb (to be)		main verb (past participle)	
Water	is		drunk	by everyone.
100 people	are		employed	by this company.
I	am		paid	in euro.
We	are	not	paid	in dollars.
Are	they		paid	in yen?



Use of the Passive Voice

- We use the passive when:
- we want to make **the active object** more important
- we do not know **the active subject**



ACTIVE OR PASSIVE?

- I ate a piece of chocolate cake.
- The librarian read the book to the students.
- The money was stolen.
- They are paid on Fridays.



infinitive		to be washed
simple	present	It is washed.
	past	It was washed.
	future	It will be washed.
	conditional	It would be washed.
continuous	present	It is being washed.
	past	It was being washed.
	future	It will be being washed.
	conditional	It would be being washed.
perfect simple	present	It has been washed.
	past	It had been washed.
	future	It will have been washed.
	conditional	It would have been washed.
perfect continuous	present	It has been being washed.
	past	It had been being washed.
	future	It will have been being washed.
	conditional	It would have been being washed.

