

# Passive voice recognizer

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## Definition of passive voice:

- The combination of both a form of "be" (or "get") and a past participle either in the predicate of a clause or as an infinitive.

Be verbs:

be

's

is

isn't

'm

am

're

are

aren't

was

wasn't

were

weren't

being

Been

get

gets

got

getting

gotten

Yes:

She is widely loved by her friends.

He got killed.

I was happy that you have been cured.

He demands the task be done now.

You need to work hard to be respected.

No:

The girl adopted leads a happy life.

Being adopted, the girl's happy now.

She gets into a new school, having been expelled from the previous one.

- For wordforms that can either be a past participle or an adjective, they are deemed to be past participles if they are followed with "by" or accompanied by some adverb phrases.

Yes:

She was excited by the news.

The door was slowly and gently closed. / The door was at once closed.

***She was very excited. (actually not, but is arbitrarily deemed to be so)***

No:

The door is closed.

She was interested.

### get/be + ? + past participle

1. Adverbs with possible conjunctions:  
E.g. She was carefully and neatly looked after. /
2. A preposition and a noun phrase:  
E.g. She was from birth crippled. / She was at once sent home.
3. Parenthesis:  
E.g. She was, together with her brother, Paul, raised up in Hangzhou. / ***She was, as soon as the news was released, summoned to attend a meeting.***
4. For inverted sentences:  
Certain questions: Is it killed? / When was it killed? / To whom was it provided?  
Inverted clauses: Be it stolen or lost, I don't care. / Seldom am I criticized by the teacher.  
\*Murdered though Martin Luther King was, he is always a hero.

Except the above situations, the following words can't be inserted in between:

Noun

Verb

Adjective

Pronoun

Determiner

Preposition

### Problems:

1. Past participles as adjectives vs. ditransitive verbs: They are adopted children.  
/ They are given candies.
2. "all" recognized as a determiner: They are all killed

2. all recognized as a determiner. They are all killed.
3. Has and is/was share the same 's: He's forgotten everything. / He's given candies.
4. Ambiguities: He's left. -> He has left. / He is left.
5. Being/getting and been: may be an adverbial phrase instead of a clause. E.g. having being expelled; being examined.

## Test set

It is of improved quality.

This is an adopted girl.

I want to get it done.

They are kindly divorced women.

They are recruiting certified lawyers.

They are lawyers certified.

They are adopted children.

He's forgotten everything.

She's forgotten.

He's left.

They are all given candies.

She was carefully and neatly looked after.

She was from birth crippled.

She was, as soon as the news was released, summoned to attend a meeting.

She was, together with her brother, Paul, raised up in Hangzhou.

When was it discovered?

To whom was it provided?

For whose benefit is it made?

Seldom am I criticized by the teacher.

Murdered though Martin Luther King was, he is always a hero.

They are given books.

Problems:

They are all[DT] given candies. / They are a[DT] rejected group.

She was at[IN] once sent home. / She get into a new school, expelled from the previous one.

She was carefully and[CC] neatly looked after.

Disgracefully is the girl[NP] expelled. / Why is the girl disgracefully expelled? / That is the girl disgracefully expelled.

She was being examined. / That girl for the time being passed the test. / She was excited for being invited.

She is getting examined.

Sherry was, born though in Beijing, raised in Zhejiang. / Sherry was, born though in Beijing, living in Zhejiang, raised up by her father. / Sherry was, born though in Beijing, the capital city of China, actually living in Zhejiang.  
She is to be expelled. / To be admired, you need to work much harder.

Problems of pos\_tag():

1. are all excited[JJ] / get all excited[VBN];  
are excited[VBN] / get excited[VBN];  
is excited[VBN] / gets excited[JJ]  
Is really excited[VBN] / gets really excited[VBN]

*He's forgotten everything.*

When will you be accepted?  
Why won't he be arrested?  
How many colors are painted?  
How many trees got planted?  
How many trees didn't get planted?  
How likely is it killed?  
Who is the girl arrested?  
How was he arrested?  
Why wasn't he arrested?  
Tell me the truth, why was he killed?  
I don't know why he was killed.  
Is it to be killed?

Be it stolen or lost, I don't care.  
Were it stolen, I will find the thief.

When were you accepted?  
Who is the girl robbed by the man?  
Who is killed?  
Who's killed?

For whom is it designed?  
For whose benefit is it made?  
Since when have they been knocked out?

Is, am, are, was, were, been, be, (being)

That was the girl robbed

that was the girl robbed.

When was the girl robbed?

在不是的里面找：

1. 分句句首是Inversion indicators
2. 存在"be + NP + ed"形式
3. 是被动语态

1. 分句存在“ed + as/though + NP + be”形式
2. 是被动语态