

Composing a Passive Voice Sentence in Latin

Follow these steps to help you write a Passive sentence in Latin:

1. Write the sentence in English first, using simple grammar.
2. Find the subject of the sentence: Could be a noun OR a verb
 - a. NOUN SUBJECT: Write this subject in the NOMINATIVE case. Check your noun declining charts for the correct noun form. Example: The **man** is loved by the woman. "**The man**" is the subject of the sentence and would need to be in the nominative case.
 - i. Write the subject as the first word in your composed sentence.
 - b. VERB SUBJECT: Check your verb conjugating charts for correct verb form. Example: **We will be loved** by the woman. The pronoun "we" is represented in Latin by the personal ending, -mus in the verb. Therefore, the verb is the subject of the sentence. Note: A 1ST OR 2ND person verb is ALWAYS the subject of the sentence.
 - i. Write the verb as the last word in your composed sentence.
3. Write the verb in Latin, if you haven't done so already. Check your verb conjugating charts for correct verb form.
 - a. If you have a NOUN SUBJECT, use 3rd singular or 3rd plural
 - b. If you have a VERB SUBJECT, you already took care of the verb in Step 2.
 - i. Write the verb as the last word in your composed sentence.
4. Ablative of Agent: If there is an Ablative of Agent in the sentence, write it in its correct Ablative case and number. Remember the Ablative of Agent = a/ab + PERSON in the ABLATIVE case.
 - i. Write the Ablative of Agent before the verb.
5. Ablative of Means: If there is an ablative of means, add it before the verb REMEMBER: when you have a THING that's used to complete the action of the verb, that's ablative of means – just put the noun in the ablative case.
6. Any remaining words: Identify the function of remaining words (Possessor, Indirect Object, Prepositional Phrase, Adverb) and write those words in their correct cases.
 - a. Possessor = Genitive case will follow the word it possesses
 - b. Indirect Object = Dative case will be written closer to the verb
 - c. Prepositional Phrase = Accusative or Ablative case following a preposition will need to be written where you'd put it in English
 - d. Adverb will be written right before the verb in the sentence

Example Sentences	<u>Subject receiving the action</u> Passive verb <u>Ablative of agent/means</u>
The man is loved by the woman in the villa of Apulia.	<u>Vir a femina</u> in villa Apuliae amatur .
The boys and girls were being given balls by the teachers.	<u>Pueri et puellae</u> pilis a magistris dabantur .
We will be seized quickly by the enemy.	<u>Ab hostibus</u> celeriter capiemur .
The animal was being killed with a weapon.	<u>Animal telo</u> necabatur .

Nota Bene: Sentence structure in Latin is flexible, but you can follow a general layout:

Subject=>indirect object => => ablative=> adverb => main verb

- Every sentence will have at least a subject and a verb, but not necessarily the other cases.
- Adjectives after their nouns except if it's a noun of size or quantity.
- Genitives follow the noun they possess/describe.