

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

John cooked the chips (*active*)

The chips were cooked by John (*passive*)

Judy ate the apple (*active*)

The apple was eaten by Judy (*passive*)

Lots of people saw the eclipse (*active*)

The eclipse was seen by lots of people
(*passive*)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

- The passive is often used to make the message seem less aggressive

eg Smoking is not permitted (*passive*)

We do not permit smoking (*active*)

- It is also used in letters and reports to make the writing less personal.

eg It has been brought to our attention that. . . (*passive*)

Fred Bloggs has told us that. . . (*active*)