Sentence Detectives

Year 6 looks at the jobs words do in a sentence: who does it, what is done, and who it is done to.

Subject



My job: I am the person or thing doing the verb. I usually come before it.

🔍 **Ask:** Who or what is doing it?

The dog | **My sister** | **They** | **The storm**

The **dog** chased the ball.

Verb



My job: I am the action or state at the heart of every clause.

🔍 **Ask:** What is being done?

chased | **is writing** | **was built** | **has eaten**

The dog **chased** the ball.

Object



My job: I am the person or thing the verb is done to. I come after the verb.

🔍 **Ask:** Who or what is it done to?

the ball | **a letter** | **them** | **the cake**

The dog chased **the** **ball.**

Passive voice



My job: I flip the sentence: the object goes first, and "by..." says who did it - if you want to say at all.

🔍 **Ask:** Is something being done TO the subject?

was chased by | **is made by** | **were built**

The ball **was** **chased** by the dog.

Top tip: to find the passive, look for **was / were / is / been + a verb**, and ask: is something being done **to** the subject? Then look for **by...**

Sentence Detectives

All of them in one sentence

The	chef	baked	a	huge	cake.
SUBJECT	SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT	OBJECT	OBJECT

Active or passive?

Active (who did it comes first)	Passive (what it was done to comes first)
The chef baked a huge cake.	A huge cake **was baked** by the chef.
Vikings built the village.	The village **was built** by Vikings.
Someone broke the window.	The window **was broken**. (we don't know who)

Year 6 punctuation in one line each

Mark	Job	Example
; semi-colon	joins two closely linked main clauses	It was late; we went home.
: colon	introduces a list or an explanation	Bring three things: a pen, a ruler and a snack.
- hyphen	joins words to avoid ambiguity	man-eating shark (not a man eating shark!)
… ellipsis	leaves words out, or builds suspense	The door creaked open…

Quick sort: which one is it?

The bell rang. · The cake was eaten. · Ali kicked the ball. · The castle was built by Normans.

Active

Passive

Answers: active - The bell rang. Ali kicked the ball. passive - The cake was eaten. The castle was built by Normans.