

Lesson 58:

Passive Verbs

Passive Verbs

[mnyambuliko wa vitenzi]

A). Forming Passive Verbs

When a Swahili verb stem has **-W-** suffixed to it, an active verb becomes a passive one.

Active Verbs		Passive Verbs	
1. ita	[call]	itwa	[be called]
2. sema	[say/speak]	semwa	[be said/spoken]
3. zungumza	[speak]	zungumzwa	[be spoken]
4. onya	[warn]	onywa	[be warned]
5. cheza	[play]	chezwa	[be played]
6. gawanya	[divide]	gawanywa	[be divided]
7. pika	[cook]	pikwa	[be cooked]
8. soma	[read]	somwa	[be read]
9. penda	[like]	pendwa	[be liked]
10. ona	[see]	onwa	[be seen]
11. tazama	[look/watch/ examine]	tazamwa	[be looked at/be watched/ be examined]
12. piga	[hit]	pigwa	[be beaten]
13. kula	[eat]	kulwa	[be eaten]
14. tupa	[know]	tupwa	[be known]
15. ruka	[jump]	rukwa	[be jumped]
16. fanya	[do]	fanywa	[be done]
17. andika	[write]	andikwa	[be written]
18. gonga	[hit]	gongwa	[be beaten]
19. shika	[hold]	shikwa	[be held]
20. omba	[ask/beg/pray]	ombwa	[be asked/be begged/ be prayed for]
21. cheka	[laugh]	chekwa	[be laughed at]

22. funza	[teach]	funz wa	[be taught]
23. fundisha	[teach]	fundish wa	[be taught]
24. maliza	[finish]	maliz wa	[be finished]
25. safisha	[clean]	safish wa	[be cleaned]
26. osha	[clean]	osh wa	[be cleaned]
27. anza	[start]	anz wa	[be started]
28. toka	[come from/ get out]	tok wa	[be coming from/ be getting out]
29. fika	[arrive]	fik wa	[be arrived]
30. leta	[bring]	let wa	[be brought]
31. peleka	[see]	pelek wa	[be seen]
32. lipa	[pay]	lip wa	[be paid]
33. panga	[arrange]	pang wa	[be arranged]
34. eleza	[explain]	elez wa	[be explained]
35. tafuta	[search]	tafut wa	[be sought]
36. agiza	[order]	agiz wa	[be ordered]
37. poteza	[lose]	potez wa	[be lost]
38. taka	[want]	tak wa	[be wanted]
39. beba	[carry]	beb wa	[be carried]
40. pita	[pass a place/exam]	pit wa	[be passing a place/exam]
41. shinda	[win]	shind wa	[be won]
42. ngoja	[wait]	ngoj wa	[be waiting]
43. tengeneza	[make]	Tengenez wa	[be made]
44. tisha	[scare]	tish wa	[be scared]
45. uza	[sell]	uz wa	[be sold]
46. vunja	[break]	vunj wa	[be broken]
47. weza	[be able]	wez wa	[be enabled]
48. mwaga	[pour]	mwag wa	[be poured]
49. ficha	[hide]	fich wa	[be hidden]
50. jenga	[build]	jeng wa	[be built]
51. panda	[climb/board]	pand wa	[be climbed/ boarded]
52. pata	[get]	pat wa	[be got]

Sentences with Active verbs:

1. Ali atamwita mtoto.
[Ali will call the child.]
2. Watanzania wanasema Kiswahili.
[Tanzanian people speak Kiswahili.]
3. Wanigeria wanazungumza Kihausa.
[Nigerians speak Hausa.]
4. Rajabu amesoma hadithi.
[Rajabu has read a story.]
5. Mwalimu alicheza gita.
[The teacher played the guitar.]
6. Ali atapika chakula.
[Ali will cook the food.]

Sentences with Passive verbs:

1. Mtoto ataitwa na Ali.
[The child will be called by Ali.]
2. Kiswahili kinasemwa na Watanzania.
[Kiswahili is spoken by Tanzanians.]
3. Kihausa kinazungumzwa na Wanigeria.
[Hausa is spoken by Nigerians.]
4. Hadithi imesomwa na Rajabu.
[The story has been read by Rajabu.]
5. Gita ilichezwa na mwalimu.
[The guitar was played by the teacher.]
6. Chakula kitapikwa na Ali.
[Food will be cooked by Ali.]

B). Other Ways of Forming Passive Verbs

If the stem of the verb has one of the vowels [A, I, or U], then the passive form will use the suffix **-LIW-**. If the stem of the verb has one of the vowels [O or E], then the passive form will be **-LEW-**.

Active Verbs

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. nun <u>u</u> a | [buy] |
| 2. pak <u>u</u> a | [serve] |
| 3. v <u>u</u> a | [remove] |
| 4. and <u>a</u> a | [prepare] |
| 5. v <u>a</u> a | [put on] |
| 6. kimb <u>i</u> a | [run] |
| 7. to <u>a</u> | [pull out] |
| 8. ok <u>o</u> a | [save] |
| 9. le <u>a</u> | [raise (a child)] |
| 10. <u>o</u> a | [marry] |
| 11. k <u>a</u> a | [sit] |

Passive Verbs

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| nun <u>u</u> liwa | [be bought] |
| pak <u>u</u> liwa | [be served] |
| v <u>u</u> liwa | [be removed] |
| and <u>a</u> liwa | [be prepared] |
| val <u>i</u> wa | [be put on] |
| kimb <u>i</u> liwa | [be run] |
| to <u>l</u> ewa | [be pulled out] |
| ok <u>o</u> lewa | [be saved] |
| le <u>l</u> ewa | [be raised] |
| o <u>l</u> ewa | [be married] |
| kaliwa | [be seated] |

12. ing <u>i</u> a	[enter]	ingili <u>wa</u>	[be entered]
13. pote <u>a</u>	[be lost]	potele <u>wa</u>	[be lost]
14. chuku <u>u</u> a	[take]	chukuli <u>wa</u>	[be taken]
15. tumi <u>a</u>	[use]	tumi <u>wa</u>	[be used]
16. poke <u>a</u>	[receive]	pokele <u>wa</u>	[be recieved]
17. tobo <u>a</u>	[open/make a hole]	tobole <u>wa</u>	[be opened/ be made a hole]
18. am <u>u</u> a	[decide]	amuli <u>wa</u>	[be decided]

Sentences with

Active verbs:

1. Mama atanunua matunda.

[Mother will buy fruits.]

2. Juma alioa Maria.

[Juma married Maria.]

3. Mama ameandaa chakula.

[Mother has prepared food.]

Sentences with

Passive verbs:

1. Matunda yatanunuliwa na mama.

[The fruits will be bought by mother.]

2. Maria aliolewa na Juma.

[Maria was married to Juma.]

3. Chakula kimeandaliwa na mama.

[The food has been prepared by mother.]

C). Borrowed Verbs in Passive Form

Most, but not all, borrowed verbs will **-IWA** in their passive forms.

Active Verbs

1. rudi [punish]

2. jaribu [try]

3. karibu [close]

4. fikiri [think]

5. keti [sit]

Passive Verbs

rudiwa [be punished]

jaribiwa [be tried]

karibiwa [be closer]

fikiriwa [be thought of]

ketiwa [be sat on]