Arabic B2, lesson 1: the passive (المبني للمجهول)

يُقْرَأُ
it is read

كُتِبَ
it was written

فُتِحَ
it was opened

نائِب الفاعِل
passive subject

قيلَ
it was said

اُسْتُقْبِلَ
he was welcomed

خاصّ
special, private

قاعَة
hall

مَجْهول
unknown

زُيِّنَ

it was decorated

فُتِحَتِ المَكْتَبَةُ الجَديدَةُ أَمْسِ.

كُتِبَ عَلى بابِها: أَهْلًا بِالزُّوّارِ.

تُقْرَأُ فيها الكُتُبُ بِهُدوءٍ، وَيُسْتَقْبَلُ الأَطْفالُ في قاعَةٍ خاصَّةٍ.

وَقيلَ إِنَّ المَكْتَبَةَ سَتُزَيَّنُ بِالصُّوَرِ.

▶ **Show the translation**

The passive (المَبْنِيّ لِلْمَجْهول) is used when **the doer is not named**. The object becomes the subject (**نائِب الفاعِل**), nominative, and the verb agrees with it: كُتِبَتِ الرِّسالَةُ.

- **Past**: damma on the 1st letter, kasra on the penultimate: كَتَبَ → كُتِبَ ; فَتَحَ → فُتِحَ ; عَلَّمَ → عُلِّمَ ; اِسْتَقْبَلَ → اُسْتُقْبِلَ.

- **Present**: damma on the prefix, fatha on the penultimate: يَكْتُبُ → يُكْتَبُ; يَفْتَحُ → يُفْتَحُ; يَسْتَقْبِلُ → يُسْتَقْبَلُ.
- **Hollow verbs**: قالَ → قيلَ, باعَ → بيعَ; present يُقالُ, يُباعُ.

Only verbs with a direct object take the passive. If you want to name the doer, prefer the active verb.

Active and passive

Verb	past active	past passive	present active	present passive
كَتَبَ	كَتَبَ	كُتِبَ	يَكْتُبُ	يُكْتَبُ
فَتَحَ	فَتَحَ	فُتِحَ	يَفْتَحُ	يُفْتَحُ
عَلَّمَ	عَلَّمَ	عُلِّمَ	يُعَلِّمُ	يُعَلَّمُ
قالَ	قالَ	قيلَ	يَقولُ	يُقالُ
باعَ	باعَ	بيعَ	يَبيعُ	يُباعُ

Write the past passive of each verb.

كَتَبَ — …choose

فَتَحَ	…choose
قالَ	…choose
باعَ	…choose
عَلَّمَ	…choose

Check Start again

Write five passive sentences about what happened in your town this week (بُنِيَ, فُتِحَ, كُتِبَ …).

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