



# ADVENTURES IN LANGUAGE



## MANDARIN CHINESE ACTIVITY

The 被 (bèi) structure (passive voice)

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## How to form passive voice sentences in Mandarin?

Before you start to dive into the exercises, let's have a quick recap of what we discussed about the passive voice in Mandarin.

Here is how a passive voice (the 被 (bèi) structure) is formed:

Subject	(Negation)	(Modal verb)	被 (bèi, "by") / 叫 (jiào, "by") / 让 (ràng, "by")	(Agent)	Verb	Aspect marker/ complement
1. The apples are eaten by my younger brother						
苹果 Píngguǒ apples			被 / 叫 / 让 bèi/jiào/ràng by	我弟弟 wǒ dìdì my brother	吃 chī eat	了。 le.
2. I was cut with a knife (literally: My finger was cut broken by a knife).						
我的指头 Wǒde zhǐtóu my finger			被 / 叫 / 让 bèi/jiào/ràng by	刀 dāo knife	割 gē cut	破了。 pò le. broken
3. The bike wasn't stolen.						
自行车 Zìxíngchē bike	没 méi not		被 bèi		偷 tōu steal	走。 zǒu. away
4. He should not be transferred.						
他 Tā he	不 bù not	应该 yīnggāi should	被 bèi		调 diào transfer	走。 zǒu. away

### Please note:

Passive voice markers are the words 被 (bèi) / 叫 (jiào) / 让 (ràng), but they are not completely interchangeable.

The same as the passive voice in English, the agent (by whom or by what) can be optional in the passive sentence, like Example 3 listed above.

了 (le) is one of the aspectual markers that is used in an affirmative passive voice sentence to indicate the completion of an action.

破 (pò, "broken") in Example 2 and 走 (zǒu, "good") in Example 3 are complements that are used to tell the result of the action.

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## 1 Transfer the following “subject + verb + object” structure sentences to a 被(bèi) structure.

1. 妈妈说服了我。  
Māma shuōfú le wǒ.  
Mom persuaded me.

---

2. 那只大狗咬了这个男孩。  
Nà zhī dàgǒu yǎo le zhège nánhái.  
That big dog bit this boy.

---

3. 老师表扬了我们。  
Lǎoshī biǎoyáng le wǒmen.  
The teacher praised us.

---

4. 同学们借走了新书。  
Tóngxué men jiè zǒu le xīnshū.  
Classmates borrowed the newly arrived books.

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5. 我扔了那个水瓶。  
Wǒ rēng le nàge shuǐpíng.  
I threw away that water bottle.

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## 2 Change the following passive sentences into negative passive sentences.

1. 我被表扬了。  
Wǒ bèi biǎoyáng le.  
I was not praised.  

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2. 他的手机被抢走了。  
Tāde shǒujī bèi qiǎng zǒu le.  
His cellphone was not stolen.  

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3. 你想被校长开除。  
Nǐ xiǎng bèi xiàozhǎng kāichú.  
You don't want to be fired by the principal.  

---
4. 小心！花瓶让他摔碎了。  
Xiǎoxīn! Huāpíng ràng tā shuāi suì le.  
Watch out! Don't let him break your vase.  

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1

1. 妈妈说服了我。→ 我被妈妈说服了。
2. 那只大狗咬了这个男孩。→ 这个男孩被那只大狗咬了。
3. 老师表扬了我们。→ 我们被老师表扬了。
4. 同学们借走了新书。→ 新书被同学们借走了。
5. 我扔了那个水瓶。→ 那个水瓶被我扔了。

2

1. 我被表扬了。→ 我没被表扬。
2. 他的手机被抢走了。→ 他的手机没被抢走。
3. 你想被校长开除。→ 你不想被校长开除。
4. 小心! 钱包让他偷了。→ 小心! 花瓶别让他摔碎了。

