

Passive Type 1: *di-* (diambil oleh Rina, etc)

Look at these two ways of saying the same thing:

1. RINA **mengambil** uang itu. Rina took the money. (or ‘Rina takes the money’ etc)
2. UANG ITU **diambil oleh** Rina. The money was taken by Rina. (or ‘is taken by Rina’ etc)

Sentence No 1 focuses on Rina. To show Rina is the doer of the action, i.e. the Actor, we put “me” on the verb, saying “**mengambil**”.

Sentence No 2 focuses on “uang itu” instead. It is not the Actor. Instead it is having the action done *to* it. (In other words, it is the “Undergoer”). To show that it is having the action done *to* it, we put “di-“ on the verb, saying “**diambil**”.

Indonesians very often focus on the Undergoer and not the Actor when they speak. So they use “*di-*“ a lot. Have a closer look at this type of sentence.

Undergoer	verb (di- + base)	(oleh)	Actor
Uang itu	diambil	(oleh)	Rina

(= “The money was/is taken by Rina”.)

The word *oleh* (“by”) is optional. You can just say (e.g.) “Uang itu diambil RINA.”

One important thing to remember: compare the two sentences below:

- (a). Uang itu diambil oleh *Rina* / oleh *orang itu* / oleh *teman saya*. ✓
BUT
(b). Uang itu diambil oleh *saya* / oleh *Anda* / oleh *kita*. ✗

Why is (a) correct, but (b) wrong? Because we only use this type of sentence when the Actor is a ‘third person’. That means a person who is not me, or you, or us. (so e.g. *Rina*, or *orang itu*).

Note, though, that if you don’t mention the Actor, then it doesn’t matter if s/he is a third person or not. So you can say e.g.

- * [to a friend]: Buku ini sudah **dibaca**? Has this book been read? (meaning: read by **you**?)
- * [in a shop]: Ini sudah **dibayar**. This has been paid for (meaning: paid for by **me**).

If the Actor is “*dia*”, you can say “diambil *oleh dia*”, but there is another way too: with *-nya* instead. Example:

- * Uang itu diambilnya.

(Or formally, we could also say “*diambil olehnya*”)

Exercise 1: Say it in the passive, with “di-“.

pilih buka tulis jual bawa cuci buat tukar
simpan tembak bangun pakai kirim

1. That church was built in 1870. **Gereja itu dibangun** pada tahun 1870.
2. The letter was sent last week. _____ minggu lalu.
3. That building will be opened in June. _____ pada bulan Juni.
4. She was brought to hospital. _____.
5. These clothes need to be washed. _____.
6. That road is never used. _____.
7. They were shot in the street. _____ di jalan.
8. He will be chosen as President. _____ sebagai Presiden.
9. Their money is kept in the bank. _____.
10. That car was made in Korea. _____.
11. This book was written last year. _____ tahun lalu.
12. Sorry, that book cannot be exchanged. Maaf, _____.
13. DVDs are sold for a low price in Jakarta. DVD _____ di Jakarta.

Exercise 2: Say it in the passive, with “di-“. (This time mention the Actor, too)

masak cari pakai beli ambil pinjam bunuh
baca tutup bantu curi bangun buat bersihkan

1. That house was built by farmers. Rumah itu **dibangun oleh petani** .
2. This rice was cooked by my friend. _____.
3. I think Lina took that chair. _____.
4. His house is cleaned by servants. _____.
5. We will be helped by Farida. _____.
6. She made that cake last night. _____.
7. A lot of people read that magazine. _____.
8. They used our money. _____.
9. This hotel was bought by an Italian. _____.
10. The police are looking for him. _____.
11. The taxi driver was killed by his own son. _____.
12. My radio was stolen by the neighbour. _____.
13. My car has been borrowed by Pak Hidayat. _____.
14. Hadi shut the door hard. _____ dengan keras.

Answer key

Exercise 1: 2) Surat itu dikirim 3) Gedung itu akan dibuka 4) Dia dibawa ke rumah sakit. 5) Pakaian itu perlu dicuci. 6) Jalan itu tidak pernah dipakai. 7) Mereka ditembak 8) Dia akan dipilih 9) Uang mereka disimpan di bank. 10) Mobil itu dibuat di Korea. 11) Buku ini ditulis 12) Buku itu tidak boleh ditukar. 13) dijual dengan murah

Exercise 2: 2) Nasi itu dimasak oleh teman saya 3) Saya kira kursi itu diambil oleh Lina 4) Rumahnya dibersihkan oleh pembantu 5) Kami akan dibantu oleh Farida. 6) Kueh itu dibuatnya tadi malam. 7) Majalah itu dibaca oleh banyak orang. 8) Uang kami dipakai oleh mereka. 9) Hotel ini dibeli oleh seorang Italia. 10) Dia dicari oleh polisi. 11) Sopir taksi itu dibunuh oleh anaknya sendiri. 12) Radio saya dicuri oleh tetangga. 13) Mobil saya sudah dipinjam Pak Hidayat. 14) Pintunya ditutup oleh Hadi