

Word list

release: to make a book, a song or a film available to the public; to put the book on sale

uproar: a public expression of protest or outrage; loud complaints by angry people

race: any one of the groups that humans are often divided into based on physical traits regarded as common among people of shared ancestry

champion: a person who vigorously supports or defends a person or a cause

slam: to criticise severely

blasted: to express anger or annoyance at something or someone

gobblefunk: one of Roald Dahl's invented words. "If you gobblefunk with words, you play around with words and invent new words or meanings"

mischievous: causing trouble in a playful way

Let's chat about that!

1. What is the play on words in the heading of the article, 'by the book'?
2. Do you think publishers are right to remove "offensive" language from books?
3. Do you feel good about the social movements taking place nowadays or is the new woke culture a little too much?
4. Are you comfortable using words such as fat and ugly in your own language or do you tiptoe around the topic?
5. Do you think people are less inclined to give their opinion nowadays?

Use of English: Past Simple Passive

Which sentence is written in the passive?

Jk Rowling **wrote** Harry Potter.

'Harry Potter' **was written** in English.

The past simple passive is formed by using **was** or **were** plus the **past participle**.

The passive is used when the person or thing that did the action is of no importance or simply not the focus of our attention. You can, if you wish, use **by** to identify who or what did the action.

Active vs. Passive

My uncle **built** this house in 1975.

Here, I'm proud to tell you that my uncle built the house. I feel it's important information and I want you to know who did the action.

This house **was built** in 1975.

In this example, I couldn't care less who built the house. I don't consider it to be of any importance or relevance. However, if I want to give my uncle some credit for the building the house, I could say "This house was built in 1975 by my uncle". But the year the house was built is clearly the most important piece of information.

Sentence Transformation Practice:

Shakespeare wrote Hamlet around 1600. → Hamlet _____ Shakespeare around 1600.

They designed the pub to appeal to young people. → The pub _____ to appeal to young people.