A verb form can be in the **active voice** or in the passive voice. Active verb forms are different from passive forms; however, sometimes they are confused. These mistakes are not very surprising because of the following reasons.

**Be** (is, am, are, was and were) can be used to make both passive forms and continuous forms in the active voice.

**Past participles** are used to make both passive verb forms and perfect tenses in the active voice.

Find out the verbs in the following sentences and state whether they are in the **active voice or passive voice**.

1. The boy killed the spider.
2. This house was built by my grandfather.
3. The boy was bitten by a snake.
4. The loud noise frightened the cows.
5. His command was promptly obeyed.
6. All the milk was drunk by the cat.
7. She opened the door.
8. A stone struck me on the head.
9. I have just posted the letter.
10. The minister inaugurated the exhibition.

**Answers**

1. Verb - killed; active voice
2. Verb - was built; passive voice
3. Verb - was bitten; passive voice
4. Verb - frightened; active voice
5. Verb - was obeyed; passive voice
6. Verb – was drunk; passive voice
7. Verb – opened; active voice
8. Verb – struck; active voice
9. Verb – have posted; active voice
10. Verb – inaugurated; active voice