

Passive Voice

- All the verbs we have studied to date have been in active voice.
- Active voice is best understood in terms of the **subject**:
 - In active voice the **subject (nominative)** is actively doing something:
 - **Aurēlia ancillās** reprehendit.

1

Passive Voice

- By contrast, in passive voice the **subject (still nominative)** is not doing anything, but is being acted upon by someone or something else:
 - **Ancillae** ab **Aurēliā** reprehenduntur.
(Clearly the slave women aren't scolding Aurelia, but they are being scolded by her.)
 - **Cēna optima** parātur.
(This sentence must be passive since the dinner obviously isn't cooking itself, and there is no one explicitly mentioned to do the cooking.)
- **NOTE:** In general, only transitive verbs (those that may take a **direct object**) have passive forms.

2

Passive Endings

- The standard verb endings in passive are unique (used in present, imperfect, and future):

-r -mur
-ris -minī
-tur -ntur



Yes, it's
the
Minnie
Mouse™
endings!

- Lectīca** portābātur.
- Hospes** ā **caupōne** necātur. (ā/ab = by)
- Numquam audīmur.
- videō has a special meaning in passive: seem
 - **Liberī dēfessī** videntur.

3

The Passive Ending Song

"Who's being loved by Mickey Mouse™,
who's loved in turn by her?"

-r	-m-u-r
-ris	-minī →
-tur	-ntur



4