**Adjectives or Verbs?**

You may want your students to review the five forms of a verb; the past participial form can sometimes be an adjective and sometimes a verb.

The store has closed.

Here *closed* is a verb. Along with the auxiliary verb *has*, it indicates perfect aspect.

The door was closed by the child.

Here *closed is a verb.* Along with the auxiliary verb *was*, it indicates passive voice.

The store was closed.

Here, under one interpretation, *closed* is an adjective describing a state. The *was* is a linking verb and *closed* completes it. You could substitute *open, green, busy*, etc. for *closed*. (This same sentence could have *closed* as a verb: *The store was closed by the employee.* Then it would be the passive form of the verb.)

So the tricky part is that you can have the exact same combination of words and the past participle can be either a verb or an adjective.

form of *be* + past participle/verb = passive

form of *be* + past participle/adjective = not passive

Again, don’t just tell your students this. They have tests for adjectives and verbs, so let them figure it out. See if they can determine whether the underlined strings are passive, a linking verb plus an adjective, or both (if the string can have two slightly different meanings). Beware - you may not be able to come to consensus!

You may want to spend some more time first discussing passive. Tip: you should be able to add a *by-*phrase to any sentence that has a passive verb string.

The suspect was arrested (by the police).

The sticker had been pulled off.

The wire was bent.

The door was opened during the day.

She was excited to see her sister.

The child was pushed.

The window had been broken.

Most of the students were allowed to enter.