

_____ Name

_____ Hour

_____ Date submitted/due

Active Voice and Passive Voice
(Voices of Verbs)

Active voice=Subject performs the action expressed by the verb.

Example: I threw the ball.

I=subject

threw=verb

the ball=direct object

This is often considered the preferred voice and is more interesting to read.

Passive voice=Subject receives the action expressed by the verb

Example: The ball was thrown by me.

The ball=subject and receives action by me

was thrown=verb

me=performs the action

This is a tense often used in historical writings or in directions and can be more boring to read if overused.

Neither are wrong, but passive is often less interesting than active voice. Passive voice should not be overused.

Exercises:

Directions: Write out the verbs in the sentences below and underline the subjects. Tell whether the verb is active or passive tense.

A.

1. The kicker missed the point after touchdown.
2. Several people were arrested at the demonstration.
3. The wheat crop was ruined by a sudden storm.
4. The guest speaker told the audience of his experiences with primitive tribes in Peru.
5. Dan Angelo caught a ten-foot shark off the coast of Florida.
6. An urban renewal program will soon be organized in the city of Springfield.
7. The code has never been broken.

8. Walmart will build a news supermarket in Wetmore.
9. Have you ever read *Twilight* by Stephanie Myers?
10. In Holland dikes are maintained to prevent the sea from flooding the land.

Directions: Rewrite the following sentences and make the passive verbs active:

B.

1. Two bills and a magazine were delivered by the mail carrier.
2. A new sports car has just been bought by Ginny.
3. The old sofa was hauled down to the basement by Barney and Stan.
4. The book was enjoyed by me because the events of her childhood were described so well by the author.
5. Then I realized why the phone had been hung up so suddenly by Louise.
6. The way an engine works has never been understood by David.
7. Roberto walked out during the intermission, and the most exciting part of the show was missed by him.
8. My little brother broke one of the CDs that had been lent to me by my teacher.
9. Her friendship with the neighbors will never be forgotten by my mother, even though they are rarely in contact anymore.
10. That same silly excuse has been heard so often by Mrs. Nayback that now it is never listened to by her.