Who Takes Action?

Sort sentences by voice and notice what each one highlights.

8.LL.16.b "Analyze the effects of active and passive voice and shifts in verb tense."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

The subject does the action. Active voice puts the doer in the spotlight.

Astronauts inspected a lunar rover.

PASSIVE VOICE

The subject receives the action. Passive voice uses a form of *be* with a past participle and may name the doer with *by*.

A mural was restored by volunteers.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each numbered sentence, then choose two items and explain how the subject and verb helped you decide.

1. Nina planted three sunflowers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. Thunder startled the hikers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The lost wallet was found by a bus driver. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. The speech will be recorded by the principal. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. Our neighbors painted the fence. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The lantern is carried by Omar. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. A coach praised the team. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The chef sliced fresh peaches. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new active-voice sentence and one new passive-voice sentence about different events.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one active sentence from Part 1, rewrite it in passive voice without changing its tense, then explain in one sentence how the focus changes.

ANSWER KEY

Who Takes Action?

GRADE 8 · 8.LL.16.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Nina planted three sunflowers.	**ACTIVE**	Nina, the subject, does the planting.
2	Thunder startled the hikers.	**ACTIVE**	Thunder, the subject, causes the action.
3	The lost wallet was found by a bus driver.	**PASSIVE**	The wallet receives the action; was found is passive.
4	The speech will be recorded by the principal.	**PASSIVE**	The speech receives the action; will be recorded is passive.
5	Our neighbors painted the fence.	**ACTIVE**	The neighbors, the subject, do the painting.
6	The lantern is carried by Omar.	**PASSIVE**	The lantern receives the action; is carried is passive.
7	A coach praised the team.	**ACTIVE**	The coach, the subject, does the praising.
8	The chef sliced fresh peaches.	**ACTIVE**	The chef, the subject, does the slicing.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ACTIVE**: The puppy chased a leaf.
- **PASSIVE**: A poem was read by Mateo.

Challenge: Three sunflowers were planted by Nina. The new sentence puts the sunflowers, rather than Nina, in the spotlight.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify who or what the subject is and whether it does or receives the action. In the challenge, the rewrite should keep the original tense while shifting attention to the receiver.