Who Takes Action?

Sort sentences by voice and explore how voice shapes mood.

8.LL.20.b "Compose writing using verbs in active and passive voice to establish mood."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

The subject does the action. Active voice can make a moment feel direct and immediate.

The drummer shattered the silence.

PASSIVE VOICE

The subject receives the action. Passive voice can draw attention to what happened instead of who did it, which may create mystery.

The lantern was carried by the guide through the fog.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two numbered items and explain how you knew which voice each one uses.

1. The wolf scratched the cabin door. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
2. Maya slammed the locker shut. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
3. The warning was whispered by a stranger. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
4. The window was sealed by the caretaker. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
5. A siren pierced the quiet street. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
6. The final page was ripped out by an unseen hand. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
7. Rain hammered the metal roof. **ACTIVE** **PASSIVE**
8. The crowd cheered the last runner. **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.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your active-voice sentence in passive voice, then write one sentence explaining how the change affects the mood.

ANSWER KEY

Who Takes Action?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The wolf scratched the cabin door.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, wolf, does the scratching.
2	Maya slammed the locker shut.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, Maya, does the slamming.
3	The warning was whispered by a stranger.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, warning, receives the action.
4	The window was sealed by the caretaker.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, window, receives the action.
5	A siren pierced the quiet street.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, siren, does the piercing.
6	The final page was ripped out by an unseen hand.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, page, receives the action.
7	Rain hammered the metal roof.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, rain, does the hammering.
8	The crowd cheered the last runner.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, crowd, does the cheering.

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**: A thief snatched the silver key.
- **PASSIVE**: The letter was hidden by the librarian.

Challenge: The silver key was snatched. Leaving out the thief makes the scene feel more mysterious.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify whether each subject does or receives the action. Mood effects can vary, but students should connect their explanation to a specific change in focus.