

Voice Detectives

Sort sentences by who does the action.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.1 “Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action. The sentence usually names the doer first.

The violinist performed the solo.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. A form of be and a past participle show the action, and the doer may appear after by.

The mural was painted by local artists.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE, then choose two numbered sentences and explain how each subject either does or receives the action.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The storm damaged several roofs. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 2. Several roofs were damaged by the storm. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 3. The final score was announced over the loudspeaker. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 4. The librarian shelved the returned books. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 5. A sudden noise startled the campers. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 6. The robotics team built a bridge from cardboard. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 7. The missing backpack was found near the gym. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 8. The chef prepared a vegetable soup. | ☐ 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 sentence and one new PASSIVE sentence.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one PASSIVE sentence from Part 1 in active voice without changing its meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The storm damaged several roofs.	ACTIVE	The subject, storm, does the damaging.
2	Several roofs were damaged by the storm.	PASSIVE	The subject, roofs, receives the action.
3	The final score was announced over the loudspeaker.	PASSIVE	The subject, score, receives the action.
4	The librarian shelved the returned books.	ACTIVE	The subject, librarian, does the shelving.
5	A sudden noise startled the campers.	ACTIVE	The subject, noise, does the startling.
6	The robotics team built a bridge from cardboard.	ACTIVE	The subject, team, does the building.
7	The missing backpack was found near the gym.	PASSIVE	The subject, backpack, receives the action.
8	The chef prepared a vegetable soup.	ACTIVE	The subject, chef, does the preparing.

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 biologist examined the water sample.
- **PASSIVE:** The package was delivered before noon.

Challenge: Item 2: The storm damaged several roofs.

For Part 2, sample explanations are: Item 1 is active because the storm does the damaging; Item 2 is passive because the roofs receive the damage. For Part 3, accept original sentences that correctly show the subject doing the action in active voice or receiving the action in passive voice.