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.

ANSWER KEY

Voice Detectives

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.