Voice Focus Sort

How sentence voice shifts focus

10.L.GC.2 "Syntax: Apply understanding of syntax to comprehend, analyze, evaluate, craft, and reshape sentences to achieve desired effects."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. Use it when you want to make the actor clear and direct.

The comet crossed the night sky.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it to spotlight the receiver or when the actor is unknown or less important.

The bridge was designed by an engineer.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you know which sentence part performs or receives the action.

1. The librarian shelved the new novels. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The final score was announced by the referee. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The mural was painted by local artists. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. A sudden storm canceled the picnic. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The committee will review the proposal tomorrow. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The missing file was found under a desk. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. The researchers tested the water samples. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. My sister baked three loaves of bread. 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 ACTIVE sentence and one PASSIVE sentence about the same event.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one PASSIVE sentence from the sort in ACTIVE voice without changing its basic meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Voice Focus Sort

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The librarian shelved the new novels.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, librarian, performs the action shelved.
2	The final score was announced by the referee.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, score, receives the action.
3	The mural was painted by local artists.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, mural, receives the action.
4	A sudden storm canceled the picnic.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, storm, performs the action canceled.
5	The committee will review the proposal tomorrow.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, committee, performs the action will review.
6	The missing file was found under a desk.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, file, receives the action was found.
7	The researchers tested the water samples.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, researchers, performs the action tested.
8	My sister baked three loaves of bread.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, sister, performs the action baked.

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 director approved the plan.
- **PASSIVE**: The plan was approved by the director.

Challenge: Local artists painted the mural.

For Part 2, students should identify the subject and explain whether it performs or receives the action. Accept varied original sentences if each clearly uses the requested voice.