

Voice Detective

Sort sentences by who does the action.

7.L.GC.2.c "Distinguish between active and passive voice, revising texts to maintain consistency in active voice. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action. Ask, "Who is doing something?"

A comet crossed the night sky.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The doer may appear after the word by.

The trophy was lifted by Jordan.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE.

1. The chef chopped the onions.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

2. Our class planted seedlings.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

3. The bridge was inspected by engineers.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

4. Mia solved the puzzle.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

5. The final score was announced by the referee.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

6. The costumes were sewn by volunteers.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

7. A squirrel buried an acorn.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

8. The library books were returned by students.

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 both sentences in active voice: The banners were hung by the art club. The club welcomed visitors.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The chef chopped the onions.	ACTIVE	The chef, the subject, does the chopping.
2	Our class planted seedlings.	ACTIVE	Our class, the subject, does the planting.
3	The bridge was inspected by engineers.	PASSIVE	The bridge receives the action, and engineers do it.
4	Mia solved the puzzle.	ACTIVE	Mia, the subject, does the solving.
5	The final score was announced by the referee.	PASSIVE	The final score receives the action, and the referee does it.
6	The costumes were sewn by volunteers.	PASSIVE	The costumes receive the action, and volunteers do it.
7	A squirrel buried an acorn.	ACTIVE	The squirrel, the subject, does the burying.
8	The library books were returned by students.	PASSIVE	The books receive the action, and students do it.

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 drummer tapped the cymbal.
- **PASSIVE:** The package was delivered by a courier.

Challenge: The art club hung the banners. The club welcomed visitors.

For Part 2, students should identify the subject and explain whether it does or receives the action. Accept original Part 3 sentences when the voice is clear and correct.