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.

ANSWER KEY # Voice Detective

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.