

Voice Detective

Spot who does the action in each sentence.

8.L.GC.1 "Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics: Draw from knowledge of the conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics when analyzing and constructing texts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. The sentence clearly tells who or what acts.

The violinist tuned her instrument.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The actor may appear in a phrase beginning with by.

The tickets were collected at the gate.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two sentences and explain how you knew which category each one belongs to.

1. The chef prepared the soup.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

2. The mural was painted by students.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

3. A new trail was opened last spring.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

4. The storm damaged several roofs.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

5. Our team will present the findings.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

6. The final score was announced by the referee.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

7. The librarian recommends this mystery novel.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

8. The engineers designed a safer bridge.

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-voice sentence and one new passive-voice sentence about topics not used above.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence in active voice by naming who acted: The package was delivered before noon.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The chef prepared the soup.	ACTIVE	The subject, chef, performs the action.
2	The mural was painted by students.	PASSIVE	The subject, mural, receives the action.
3	A new trail was opened last spring.	PASSIVE	The subject, trail, receives the action.
4	The storm damaged several roofs.	ACTIVE	The subject, storm, performs the action.
5	Our team will present the findings.	ACTIVE	The subject, team, performs the action.
6	The final score was announced by the referee.	PASSIVE	The subject, score, receives the action.
7	The librarian recommends this mystery novel.	ACTIVE	The subject, librarian, performs the action.
8	The engineers designed a safer bridge.	ACTIVE	The subject, engineers, performs the action.

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 botanist measured the seedlings.
- **PASSIVE:** The lantern was carried by Maya.

Challenge: The courier delivered the package before noon.

For Part 2, students should identify whether the subject performs or receives the action. Accept varied original sentences in Part 3 if they use active and passive voice correctly.