Voice Detective Sort

Spot who does the action in each sentence.

8.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. Active voice is usually direct and clear.

The chef prepared the meal.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The person or thing doing the action may appear after the word by.

The mural was painted by local artists.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two items in Part 2 and explain how you knew.

1. The hikers crossed the bridge. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The trophy was lifted by Jordan. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The schedule was changed yesterday. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. Our class planted seeds. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The lightning damaged several trees. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. Maya solved the puzzle. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. The new library will be opened next month. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The wind scattered the papers. 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.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this passive-voice sentence in active voice: The final scores were posted by Ms. Chen.

ANSWER KEY

Voice Detective Sort

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers crossed the bridge.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, hikers, performs the action crossed.
2	The trophy was lifted by Jordan.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, trophy, receives the action.
3	The schedule was changed yesterday.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, schedule, receives the action, and the doer is not named.
4	Our class planted seeds.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, class, performs the action planted.
5	The lightning damaged several trees.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, lightning, performs the action damaged.
6	Maya solved the puzzle.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, Maya, performs the action solved.
7	The new library will be opened next month.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, library, receives the action will be opened.
8	The wind scattered the papers.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, wind, performs the action scattered.

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 mechanic inspected the engine.
- **PASSIVE**: The engine was inspected by the mechanic.

Challenge: Ms. Chen posted the final scores.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the subject and tell whether it does or receives the action. Passive sentences can be passive even when the person or thing doing the action is not named.