

Voice Detective

Spot who does the action.

9.L.GC.2.c "Maintain consistent use of active voice throughout a text to communicate clearly and concisely. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

The subject does the action. Active voice usually makes writing direct and clear.

Owls hunt silently at dusk.

PASSIVE VOICE

The subject receives the action. Passive voice can make it less clear who did the action.

Sculptures got praised yesterday.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE; then choose two item numbers and explain how you knew each choice.

1. The robotics team tested the new sensor.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

2. Our librarian organized the book drive.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

3. The final schedule was posted by the principal.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

4. Rain flooded several streets overnight.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

5. The cookies were baked before sunrise.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

6. The missing file was found by Lena.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

7. The debate captain summarized the evidence.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

8. A sudden gust knocked over the display.

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 this passage so both sentences use active voice: "The prize was presented by Ms. Ibarra. The winners were cheered by the crowd."

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The robotics team tested the new sensor.	ACTIVE	The robotics team performs the action, tested.
2	Our librarian organized the book drive.	ACTIVE	The librarian performs the action, organized.
3	The final schedule was posted by the principal.	PASSIVE	The schedule receives the action, was posted.
4	Rain flooded several streets overnight.	ACTIVE	Rain performs the action, flooded.
5	The cookies were baked before sunrise.	PASSIVE	The cookies receive the action, were baked.
6	The missing file was found by Lena.	PASSIVE	The file receives the action, was found.
7	The debate captain summarized the evidence.	ACTIVE	The debate captain performs the action, summarized.
8	A sudden gust knocked over the display.	ACTIVE	The gust performs the action, knocked over.

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:** A chef sliced the vegetables.
- **PASSIVE:** The trail was cleared by volunteers.

Challenge: Ms. Ibarra presented the prize. The crowd cheered the winners.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are active. Items 3, 5, and 6 are passive. For Prove It, accept explanations that identify whether the subject performs or receives the action.