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."

ANSWER KEY

Voice Detective

GRADE 9 · 9.L.GC.2.c

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.

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