Action or Receiver?

Sort sentences by what the subject does.

L.8.1 "In both written and oral expression: Identify verbals correctly based on their intended function. Demonstrate appropriate use of verbs in the active and passive voice. Demonstrate appropriate use of verbs in the indicative, imperative..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action.

The otter cracked a shell.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. A form of be often comes before the action word, and a by phrase may name the doer.

A mural was painted by the artist.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how the subject's role helped you decide.

1. The editor checked the headlines. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The lantern was lit by Mara. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The trophies were placed on the shelf. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. A cyclist crossed the bridge. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The chef sliced the peaches. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The final song was performed by the choir. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. The thunder startled the campers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The gate was locked at dusk. 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 two original sentences about different events: one in ACTIVE voice and one in PASSIVE voice.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose an ACTIVE sentence from Part 1 and rewrite it in PASSIVE voice without changing who does the action.

ANSWER KEY

Action or Receiver?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The editor checked the headlines.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, editor, does the checking.
2	The lantern was lit by Mara.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, lantern, receives the action; Mara does it.
3	The trophies were placed on the shelf.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, trophies, receives the action, even though the doer is not named.
4	A cyclist crossed the bridge.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, cyclist, does the crossing.
5	The chef sliced the peaches.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, chef, does the slicing.
6	The final song was performed by the choir.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, song, receives the action; the choir does it.
7	The thunder startled the campers.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, thunder, does the startling.
8	The gate was locked at dusk.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, gate, receives the action, even though the doer is not named.

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 gardener trimmed the hedges.
- **PASSIVE**: The prize was awarded by the judge.

Challenge: The headlines were checked by the editor.

For Part 2, look for explanations that identify whether the subject does or receives the action. The challenge sample rewrites item 1 while keeping the editor as the doer.