Who Takes Action?

Sort sentences by where they place the focus.

L.8.3.a "Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjective mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action. Use it when you want readers to notice who acts.

A violinist tuned her instrument.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The verb often includes a form of *be* and a past participle, and the sentence may leave out who acted.

Fresh bread was packed for the market.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then pick two items and explain how you knew.

1.	The goalie blocked the shot.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
2.	The council approved the plan.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
3.	The bridge was repaired after the storm.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
4.	The volunteers planted saplings.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
5.	The missing key was found by Nia.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
6.	The speech was recorded for the archive.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
7.	A fox crossed the path.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
8.	The reporter checked the facts.	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 sentence in active voice and one new sentence in passive voice.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 5 in active voice, then explain in one sentence how the change shifts the focus.

ANSWER KEY

Who Takes Action?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The goalie blocked the shot.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, goalie, performs the action.
2	The council approved the plan.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, council, performs the action.
3	The bridge was repaired after the storm.	**PASSIVE**	The bridge receives the action; the sentence does not name who repaired it.
4	The volunteers planted saplings.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, volunteers, performs the action.
5	The missing key was found by Nia.	**PASSIVE**	The key receives the action; Nia is named after the verb.
6	The speech was recorded for the archive.	**PASSIVE**	The speech receives the action; the sentence does not name who recorded it.
7	A fox crossed the path.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, fox, performs the action.
8	The reporter checked the facts.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, reporter, 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 drummer tapped the cymbal.
- **PASSIVE**: The cymbal was tapped by the drummer.

Challenge: Nia found the missing key. Putting Nia first draws attention to the person who found it.

For Part 2, accept any two correct explanations that identify whether each subject does or receives the action. For Part 3, accept original sentences that clearly demonstrate each voice.