Who Does It?

Sort sentences by verb voice.

8.W.6 "Demonstrate command of English grammar and usage, focusing on: Verbs – Explaining the function of verbals (e.g., gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

The subject performs the action. Ask who does what.

The fox carried the lantern.

PASSIVE VOICE

The subject receives the action. The verb usually includes a form of be and a past participle.

The lantern was carried by the fox.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered sentence, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. The stage crew painted the backdrop. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The final poster was designed by Mina. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The missing keys were found under the bleachers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. A gust scattered the papers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The debate team chose its captain. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The invitations were delivered before noon. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. Jamal recorded the bird calls. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The chef tasted the soup. 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 about different actions.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so both clauses use active voice: The curator arranged the portraits, and the labels were printed by the assistant.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does It?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The stage crew painted the backdrop.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, stage crew, performs the painting.
2	The final poster was designed by Mina.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, poster, receives the action of designing.
3	The missing keys were found under the bleachers.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, keys, receives the action of finding.
4	A gust scattered the papers.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, gust, performs the scattering.
5	The debate team chose its captain.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, debate team, performs the choosing.
6	The invitations were delivered before noon.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, invitations, receives the action of delivering.
7	Jamal recorded the bird calls.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, Jamal, performs the recording.
8	The chef tasted the soup.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, chef, performs the tasting.

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 librarian shelved the atlases.
- **PASSIVE**: The mural was restored by volunteers.

Challenge: The curator arranged the portraits, and the assistant printed the labels.

For Part 2, students should identify each chosen sentence's subject and explain whether it performs or receives the action. In the challenge, both clauses must remain accurate while using active voice.