

Voice Detective

Find who does the action and who receives it.

8.10.D.ii "consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses and active and passive voice;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action. The sentence usually makes the actor clear.

The lighthouse guides ships through the fog.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. A form of be plus a past participle often shows passive voice.

The telescope was repaired by an engineer.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which words show the voice.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Jordan packed the camping gear. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 2. The final score was announced by the referee. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 3. A new trail is being built by volunteers. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 4. The thunder shook the windows. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 5. My aunt will organize the reunion. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 6. The research notes were copied by the assistant. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 7. The committee approved the proposal. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 8. Fresh bread fills the bakery with a warm smell. | ☐ 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 passive sentence in active voice: The mural was painted by Luis.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Jordan packed the camping gear.	ACTIVE	Jordan, the subject, performs the action packed.
2	The final score was announced by the referee.	PASSIVE	The score receives the action, and the referee is named after by.
3	A new trail is being built by volunteers.	PASSIVE	The trail receives the action is being built.
4	The thunder shook the windows.	ACTIVE	The thunder, the subject, performs the action shook.
5	My aunt will organize the reunion.	ACTIVE	My aunt, the subject, will perform the action organize.
6	The research notes were copied by the assistant.	PASSIVE	The notes receive the action were copied by the assistant.
7	The committee approved the proposal.	ACTIVE	The committee, the subject, performs the action approved.
8	Fresh bread fills the bakery with a warm smell.	ACTIVE	Fresh bread, the subject, performs the action fills.

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 started the parade.
- **PASSIVE:** The winning poster was displayed in the hallway.

Challenge: Luis painted the mural.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept equivalent explanations that correctly identify whether the subject performs or receives the action. For student-created passive sentences, check for a clear receiver of the action and a correct passive verb form.