

Voice in Focus

Spot who does the action.

10.LU.1.C "Recognize and use active and passive voice to convey a desired effect in speaking and writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. This voice often makes writing direct and clear.

Before sunrise, a baker stacked warm loaves.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The person or thing doing the action may be named or left out.

During winter, the telescope was repaired.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE, then choose two item numbers and explain which voice each sentence uses and how you know.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The committee approved the proposal. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 2. A sudden storm damaged the bridge. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 3. The mural was painted by local artists. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 4. Researchers tested the water samples. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 5. The final score was announced by the referee. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 6. The missing files were found by the technician. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 7. The orchestra performed the new piece. | ☐ ACTIVE | ☐ PASSIVE |
| 8. The route was changed after the accident. | ☐ 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 one PASSIVE sentence from the sort in ACTIVE voice while keeping its meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The committee approved the proposal.	ACTIVE	The subject, committee, performs the action approved.
2	A sudden storm damaged the bridge.	ACTIVE	The subject, storm, performs the action damaged.
3	The mural was painted by local artists.	PASSIVE	The subject, mural, receives the action. The doer appears in a by phrase.
4	Researchers tested the water samples.	ACTIVE	The subject, researchers, performs the action tested.
5	The final score was announced by the referee.	PASSIVE	The subject, score, receives the action. The referee is the doer.
6	The missing files were found by the technician.	PASSIVE	The subject, files, receives the action. The technician is the doer.
7	The orchestra performed the new piece.	ACTIVE	The subject, orchestra, performs the action performed.
8	The route was changed after the accident.	PASSIVE	The subject, route, receives the action. 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:** A pilot guided the aircraft through fog.
- **PASSIVE:** The exhibit was opened by the curator.

Challenge: Item 3: Local artists painted the mural.

Active voice has a subject that performs the action. Passive voice has a subject that receives the action, and the doer may appear in a by phrase or may be omitted.