

Voice Focus

Sort sentences by the voice they use.

11.LU.1.C "Differentiate and apply 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. Use it to emphasize who or what acts.

The violinist performed a solo.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it to emphasize the receiver of the action or when the actor is less important.

A rare manuscript was discovered in the archive.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE based on its voice.

1. The committee approved the proposal.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

2. The mural was painted by local artists.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

3. New safety rules were announced yesterday.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

4. A storm damaged the coastal road.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

5. The editor questioned the source.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

6. The final decision was reached after debate.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

7. Volunteers collected donations at noon.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

8. The schedule was changed by the director.

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

Part 2: Pick two numbered items and explain how you identified the voice in each. Part 3: Write one new ACTIVE sentence and one new PASSIVE sentence.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your new ACTIVE sentence in passive voice, then explain in one sentence how the change shifts the emphasis.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The committee approved the proposal.	ACTIVE	The subject, committee, performs the action.
2	The mural was painted by local artists.	PASSIVE	The subject, mural, receives the action.
3	New safety rules were announced yesterday.	PASSIVE	The subject, rules, receives the action; the actor is omitted.
4	A storm damaged the coastal road.	ACTIVE	The subject, storm, performs the action.
5	The editor questioned the source.	ACTIVE	The subject, editor, performs the action.
6	The final decision was reached after debate.	PASSIVE	The subject, decision, receives the action.
7	Volunteers collected donations at noon.	ACTIVE	The subject, volunteers, performs the action.
8	The schedule was changed by the director.	PASSIVE	The subject, schedule, receives 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 robotics team tested the prototype.
- **PASSIVE:** The permit was signed by the mayor.

Challenge: The prototype was tested by the robotics team. The passive voice emphasizes the prototype rather than the team.

For Part 2, students should identify whether the subject performs or receives the action. Accept varied Part 3 responses when the voice and sentence structure are correct.