Voice Detective

Find who does the action and who receives it.

9.LU.1.C "Use and apply the active and passive voice as appropriate when speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

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

A comet crossed the midnight sky.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The actor may appear in a by phrase or may be left out.

The mural was painted by a local artist.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which sentence feature helped you sort each one.

1. The coach praised the team. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The mechanic replaced the worn tire. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The final score was announced over the loudspeaker. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. A sudden storm delayed the flight. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The science fair projects were judged by volunteers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The bridge was repaired last summer. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. Several hikers reached the summit before noon. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The editor revised the headline. 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 your ACTIVE sentence as a PASSIVE sentence, then explain how the focus changes.

ANSWER KEY # Voice Detective

GRADE 9 · 9.LU.1.C

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The coach praised the team.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, coach, performs the action praised.
2	The mechanic replaced the worn tire.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, mechanic, performs the action replaced.
3	The final score was announced over the loudspeaker.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, final score, receives the action was announced.
4	A sudden storm delayed the flight.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, storm, performs the action delayed.
5	The science fair projects were judged by volunteers.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, projects, receives the action were judged.
6	The bridge was repaired last summer.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, bridge, receives the action was repaired. The actor is not named.
7	Several hikers reached the summit before noon.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, hikers, performs the action reached.
8	The editor revised the headline.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, editor, performs the action revised.

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 led the parade.
- **PASSIVE**: The cookies were baked by my aunt.

Challenge: The parade was led by the drummer. This passive version focuses on the parade rather than the drummer.

For Part 2, students should identify the subject and state whether it performs or receives the action. Accept varied original sentences when the voice is used correctly.