

Voice Choice

Sort sentences by who performs the action.

9.LU "The student will use the conventions of Standard English when speaking and writing, differentiating between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is more appropriate..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. Use it when you want to emphasize the doer.

Botanists cataloged mosses.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it when the receiver or result matters more than the doer.

Mosses had been cataloged.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE.

1. Jordan submitted the proposal before noon.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

2. Volunteers collected canned food for the pantry.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

3. The stage was decorated for opening night.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

4. Lightning shattered the old oak tree.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

5. The final decision was announced during assembly.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

6. A new trail will be opened next spring.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

7. Our editor revised the article carefully.

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

8. The committee approved the updated schedule.

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 PROVE IT: Pick two items, one ACTIVE and one PASSIVE. For each item, explain whether the subject performs or receives the action. Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new ACTIVE sentence and one new PASSIVE sentence.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 6 in active voice. Then write one sentence explaining how the revision changes the focus.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Jordan submitted the proposal before noon.	ACTIVE	Jordan, the subject, performs the action of submitting.
2	Volunteers collected canned food for the pantry.	ACTIVE	Volunteers, the subject, perform the action of collecting.
3	The stage was decorated for opening night.	PASSIVE	The stage receives the action of decorating.
4	Lightning shattered the old oak tree.	ACTIVE	Lightning, the subject, performs the action of shattering.
5	The final decision was announced during assembly.	PASSIVE	The final decision receives the action of announcing.
6	A new trail will be opened next spring.	PASSIVE	The new trail receives the action of opening.
7	Our editor revised the article carefully.	ACTIVE	The editor, the subject, performs the action of revising.
8	The committee approved the updated schedule.	ACTIVE	The committee, the subject, performs the action of approving.

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:** Mina designed a solar oven for the fair.
- **PASSIVE:** The mural was painted by neighborhood artists.

Challenge: Park rangers will open a new trail next spring. The active revision focuses on the people who will do the work.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly identify the subject as the doer in active voice or the receiver in passive voice. For the challenge, accept any active revision that names a logical actor and keeps the future meaning.