











ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

ACTIVE VOICE: In sentences using the active voice, the subject performs the action expressed in the verb. The 'doer' of the action is the subject of the verb.

PASSIVE VOICE: In sentences written in passive voice, the subject receives the action expressed in the verb. The 'doer' is either omitted or is the object of the preposition 'by'.



 <p>Examples of Active Voice</p>	 <p>Examples of Passive Voice</p>
 <p>The dog <i>bit</i> the boy.</p>	<p>The boy was <i>bitten</i> by the dog.</p> 
 <p>Rachel <i>will read</i> her poetry today.</p>	<p>Poetry was <i>read</i> by Rachel today.</p> 
 <p>Fritz <i>cooked</i> the goose.</p>	<p>The goose was <i>cooked</i> by Fritz.</p> 
 <p>The cat <i>sat</i> on the mat.</p>	<p>The mat was <i>sat</i> on by the cat.</p> 

- A passive voice that is used too often can make a paper seem awkward and uninteresting.
- If you have the choice, you should generally use the active voice.
- An active voice produces stronger sentences with clear meanings.



Changing Passive to Active Voice



1. Find the agent in the “by the . . .” phrase
2. Make that agent the subject of the sentence and change the verb accordingly

<p>The cakes <i>are being eaten</i> by the children.</p> 	 <p>The children <i>are eating</i> the cakes.</p>
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Changing Active to Passive Voice

1. Consider carefully who or what is performing the action in the sentence. In other words, who or what is the agent?
2. Make the agent the object of a “by the . . .” phrase

 <p>Ben Franklin <i>discovered</i> electricity.</p>	<p>Electricity <i>was discovered</i> by Ben Franklin.</p> 
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