

ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

SENTENCES IN ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

Here are examples of sentences written in both the active voice and the passive voice, with the active voice sentence appearing first:

ACTIVE
Harry (subject) ate (verb) six shrimp (object) at dinner.
vs.
PASSIVE
At dinner, six shrimp (object) were eaten (verb) by Harry (subject).

ACTIVE
We (subject) are going to watch (verb) a movie (object) tonight.
vs.
PASSIVE
A movie (object) is going to be watched (verb) by us (subject) tonight.

ACTIVE
Mom (subject) read (verb) the novel (object) in one day.
vs.
PASSIVE
The novel (object) was read (verb) by Mom (subject) in one day.

ACTIVE
I (subject) will clean (verb) the house (object) every Saturday.
vs.
PASSIVE
The house (object) will be cleaned (verb) by me (subject) every Saturday.

ACTIVE
Tom (subject) painted (verb) the entire house (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The entire house (object) was painted (verb) by Tom (subject).

ACTIVE
Tom (subject) will finish (verb) his project (object) by tomorrow.
vs.
PASSIVE
His project (object) will be finished (verb) by Tom (subject) tomorrow.

ACTIVE
The cleaning crew (subject) vacuums and dusts (verb) the office (object) every night.
vs.
PASSIVE
Every night the office (object) is vacuumed and dusted (verb) by the cleaning crew (subject).

ACTIVE
Alex (subject) posted (verb) the video (object) on Facebook.
vs.
PASSIVE
The video (object) was posted (verb) on Facebook by Alex (subject).

ACTIVE
Susan (subject) will bake (verb) two dozen cupcakes (object) for the bake sale.
vs.
PASSIVE
For the bake sale, two dozen cookies (object) will be baked (verb) by Susan (subject).

ACTIVE
The homeowners (subject) remodeled (verb) the house (object) to help it sell.
vs.
PASSIVE
The house (object) was remodeled (verb) by the homeowners (subject) to help it sell.

ACTIVE
The kangaroo (subject) carried (verb) her baby (object) in her pouch.
vs.
PASSIVE
The baby (object) was carried (verb) by the kangaroo (subject) in her pouch.

ACTIVE
Beautiful giraffes (subject) roam (verb) the savannah (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The savannah (object) is roamed (verb) by beautiful giraffes (subject).

ACTIVE
I (subject) ran (verb) the obstacle course (object) in record time.
vs.
PASSIVE
The obstacle course (object) was run (verb) by me (subject) in record time.

ACTIVE VOICE
Tells what a person or thing does.

- The subject performs the action and typically comes before the action (verb).
- The object is who or what receives the action and typically comes after the action (verb).

PASSIVE VOICE
Tells what is done to someone or something.

- The subject performs the action and typically comes after the action (verb).
- The object is who or what receives the action and typically comes before the action (verb).

ACTIVE
Larry (subject) generously donated (verb) money (object) to the homeless shelter.
vs.
PASSIVE
Money (object) was generously donated (verb) to the homeless shelter by Larry (subject).

ACTIVE
No one (subject) responded (verb) to my sales ad (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
My sales ad (object) was not responded to (verb) by anyone (subject).

ACTIVE
The director (subject) will give (verb) you instructions (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
Instructions (object) will be given (verb) to you by the director (subject).

ACTIVE
The team (subject) will celebrate (verb) their victory (object) tomorrow.
vs.
PASSIVE
The victory (object) will be celebrated (verb) by the team (subject) tomorrow.

ACTIVE
Some people (subject) raise (verb) sugar cane (object) in Hawaii.
vs.
PASSIVE
Sugar cane (object) is raised (verb) by some people (subject) in Hawaii.

ACTIVE
Sue (subject) changed (verb) the flat tire (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The flat tire (object) was changed (verb) by Sue (subject).

ACTIVE
The crew (subject) paved (verb) the entire stretch of highway (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The entire stretch of highway (object) was paved (verb) by the crew (subject).

ACTIVE
The critic (subject) wrote (verb) a scathing review (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
A scathing review (object) was written (verb) by the critic (subject).

ACTIVE
The staff (subject) is required to watch (verb) a safety video (object) every year.
vs.
PASSIVE
A safety video (object) will be watched (verb) by the staff (subject) every year.

ACTIVE
The teacher (subject) always answers (verb) the students' questions (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The students' questions (object) are always answered (verb) by the teacher (subject).

ACTIVE
The forest fire (subject) destroyed (verb) the whole suburb (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The whole suburb (object) was destroyed (verb) by the forest fire (subject).

ACTIVE
Mary (subject) is going to make (verb) a special dinner (object) for her husband.
vs.
PASSIVE
A special dinner (object) is going to be made (verb) by Mary (subject) tonight.

ACTIVE
The wedding planner (subject) is making (verb) all the reservations (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
All the reservations (object) will be made (verb) by the wedding planner (subject).

ACTIVE
Thousands of tourists (subject) view (verb) the Grand Canyon (object) every year.
vs.
PASSIVE
The Grand Canyon (object) is viewed (verb) by thousands of tourists (subject) every year.

ACTIVE
The saltwater (subject) eventually corroded (verb) the metal beams (object).
vs.
PASSIVE
The metal beams (object) were eventually corroded (verb) by the saltwater (subject).

ACTIVE
She (subject) faxed (verb) her application (object) for a new job.
vs.
PASSIVE
The application (object) for a new job was faxed (verb) by her (subject).