

Using Active Voice vs. Passive Verse in Writing

Rule: When writing, your sentences should be active. That means you should have the subject taking an action.

Passive/No: The material was shipped to Japan. Active/Yes: *The company shipped the material to Japan.*

Directions: On your own paper, rewrite the following sentences in active voice. The subject should be performing the action. If there is no doer, add one.

1. The dishes were washed by Jane.
2. After the game we bought hamburgers for everyone.
3. During the intermission, our band played several numbers.
4. Alice broke her pen.
5. My computer was read by Miss Jones.
6. Jean broke her arm during a volleyball game.
7. Ruth washed and ironed her blouse.
8. The money was found under the floor.
9. Eleanor loves the Rolling Stones.
10. The officer did nothing about the accident.
11. John won the first-place tennis trophy.
12. Nancy baked and frosted the cake.
13. Jill lost the election.
14. Jean played tennis all morning.
15. My books were returned before class.
16. My window was broken by the storm.
17. Miniature elephants were collected by my sister.
18. Colette danced a tap dance in the variety show.
19. Nothing was accomplished by crying.
20. That video was seen three times.

Changing Passive Voice to Active Voice

Directions: The verbs in the following sentences are in the passive voice. On your own paper, rewrite each sentence in the active voice. If the sentence doesn't have a doer, supply one.

Example: The letter was sent earlier. *Jeannie sent the letter earlier.*

1. The trees were stripped last month.
2. The computers were shipped early in September.
3. The letter was written by my brother.
4. The old car was driven by my brother.
5. The school bell was repaired in September.
6. This man has been stabbed.
7. My shoes were taken to the shoemaker.
8. The trees were uprooted by the storm.
9. The bookcase was stained a dark walnut.
10. The flowers were planted in March.

Now Write it Wrong: Changing Active Voice to Passive Voice

Directions: The verbs in the following sentences are in the active voice. On your own paper, rewrite the sentences, changing the verbs to passive voice.

Example: My neighbor alerted the police. *The police were alerted by my neighbors.*

1. The janitor fixed the classroom door.
2. Mr. Smith took a photograph of me.
3. All the students passed the algebra test.
4. Our basketball team lost twenty percent of its games.
5. The contractor renovated our kitchen.
6. Jane Beard composed the school song.
7. She broke two keys on her typewriter.
8. My father took pictures at the picnic.
9. The zookeeper loves the animals.
10. The judge took Tom's license.