

Lesson 7

Active and Passive Voice

CCSS

L.8.1.b: Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.



Introduction

Sentences can be stated in the active voice or the passive voice.

- In the **active voice**, the subject of the sentence clearly *performs* the action.

subject **action**
[Maddy] **won** the All-Around Student Achievement Contest.

- In the **passive voice**, the subject *receives* the action expressed by the verb. The verb consists of a form of the helping verb *be* plus the past participle of the main verb.

subject **helping verb** **past participle**
The [All-Around Student Achievement Contest] **was won** by Maddy.

- In the passive-voice sentence example, the subject of the sentence changed, but the overall meaning did not. Maddy performed the action of winning, but she was not the subject. The contest, which was the direct object of the action in the first sentence, is the subject of the second sentence.



Guided Practice

Underline the simple subject in each sentence. Then write A for active or P for passive to identify the voice of each sentence.

Hint

In the passive voice, the person who performs the action isn't always identified.

Example:

The award will be presented on Friday.

The sentence doesn't tell *who* will present the award. *Award* is the simple subject, but it doesn't perform the action.

- 1 Maddy is considered one of the best writers in school. _____
- 2 She writes amazing articles for the school newspaper. _____
- 3 Her report on ways to reduce waste in the cafeteria was chosen as Article of the Year. _____
- 4 This year's spring play was also written by Maddy. _____
- 5 The eighth grader even excels in math and science. _____
- 6 Last year, she received a chance to go to Science Camp in Washington, DC. _____
- 7 Camp applications were distributed to all students. _____
- 8 Many students took advantage of the opportunity and applied. _____



For numbers 1 and 2, which is the best way to change the voice in each sentence from active to passive without changing the meaning?

- 1** The committee chose three students to attend Science Camp.
- A** Science Camp was chosen for three students to attend.
 - B** Three students were chosen by the committee to attend Science Camp.
 - C** Science Camp was chosen for three students by the committee.
 - D** Three students who attended Science Camp were chosen by the committee.

- 2** The Science Camp sent the students a letter of acceptance.
- A** The Science Camp was sent a letter of acceptance for the students.
 - B** A letter of acceptance to the students was received from the Science Camp.
 - C** A letter of acceptance was received by the Science Camp for the students.
 - D** The students were sent a letter of acceptance by the Science Camp.

Answer Form

- 1 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number Correct

4

For numbers 3 and 4, which is the best way to change the voice in each sentence from passive to active without changing the meaning?

- 3** Music Camp was applied to by more students than to Drama Camp this year.
- A** More students applied to Music Camp than to Drama Camp this year.
 - B** More students will apply to Music Camp than to Drama Camp this year.
 - C** More students applied to Drama Camp than to Music Camp this year.
 - D** Music Camp had more students apply to it than to Drama Camp this year.

- 4** Maddy, a smart and friendly girl, is liked by everyone.
- A** Maddy, a smart and friendly girl, will be liked by everyone.
 - B** Maddy, who is a smart and friendly girl, likes everyone.
 - C** Everyone likes Maddy, a smart and friendly girl.
 - D** Everyone is liked by Maddy, a smart and friendly girl.