

## Active vs. Passive Voice

### *Editing*

**Active Voice** (good) = the subject appears in front of the verb, making writing clear and concise.

- The cat chased the mouse.
- I climbed the state's tallest mountain.

**Passive Voice** (bad) = the subject appears after the verb, making sentences wordy and confusing.

- The mouse was chased by the cat.
- The state's tallest mountain was climbed by me.

*Ask yourself: what is the subject, and what is it doing?*  
This should be answered in the beginning of the sentence.

Active voice uses action verbs like *jump, run, reads, talks...*  
Avoid passive verbs like *is, be, are, was, were...*

- Edit and rewrite the following sentences.

1. a world famous Musician and classicle composer was wolfgang mozart  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. at age 5, in front of european Royalty he was all ready preforming his music  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. a performance tour for 3½ years across europe was made bye the mozart Family  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. in 1773 as a court musicain for the Ruler of austria mozart was employd  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. symphonies sonatas quartets Masses an a few operas wrote mozart In austria  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. later mozart was apointed bye Emperor joseph II of vienna as his chamber composer  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. because of war, the luxury of concerts and musicians declined, creating Financial Problem for mozart  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. through-out europe preformed mozart again to suport his family, and sell compositions  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. he wears elegant clothing and befor there deadlines worked longer and hard to finish Compostions  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. billiards dancing were enjoyed by mozart and keep such pets as a Canary starling dog and hoarse  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. studies with other Musicians by mozart an His many travels allowed he to create a wide range of style  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. a young upcoming Composer named ludwig von beethoven was profound influenced by mozart  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Wolfgang Mozart**  
(1756-91)

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*Ask yourself: what is the subject, and what is it doing?*  
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Active voice uses action verbs like *jump, run, reads, talks...*

Avoid passive verbs like *is, be, are, was, were...*

- Edit and rewrite the following sentences.
  1. a world famous Musician and classicle composer was wolfgang mozart  
*Wolfgang Mozart was a world famous musician and classical composer.*
  2. at age 5, in front of european Royalty he was all ready preforming his music  
*At age five, he already performed his music in front of European royalty.*
  3. a performance tour for 3½ years across europe was made bye the mozart Family  
*The Mozart family made a performance tour for 3½ years across Europe.*
  4. in 1773 as a court musicain for the Ruler of austria mozart was employd  
*In 1773 Mozart was employed as a court musician for the ruler of Austria.*
  5. symphonies sonatas quartets Masses an a few operas wrote mozart In austria  
*In Austria he wrote symphonies, sonatas, quartets, masses, and a few operas.*
  6. later mozart was apointed bye Emperor joseph II of vienna as his chamber composer  
*Later, Emperor Joseph II of Vienna appointed Mozart as his chamber composer.*
  7. because of war, the luxury of concerts and musicians declined, creating Financial Problem for mozart  
*The luxury of concerts and musicians declined because of war, creating financial problems for Mozart.*
  8. through-out europe preformed mozart again to suport his family, and sell compositions  
*Mozart travelled again throughout Europe to support his family and sell compositions.*
  9. elegant clothing wore by him and befor there deadlines worked longer and hard to finish Compostions  
*He wore elegant clothing and worked long and hard to finish compositions before their deadlines.*
  10. billiards dancing were enjoyed by mozart and keep such pets as a Canary starling dog and hoarse  
*Mozart enjoyed billiards, dancing, and kept such pets as a canary, starling, dog, and horse.*
  11. studies with other Musicians by mozart an His many travels allowed he to create a wide range of style  
*Mozart's many travels and studies with other musicians allowed him to create a wide range of styles.*
  12. a young upcoming Composer named ludwig von beethoven was profound influenced by mozart  
*Mozart's music profoundly influenced a young, upcoming composer named Ludwig von Beethoven.*



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