

Active vs. Passive Voice

Advanced Writing

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...*

- Change each sentence from passive into active voice.
 1. The award for "Student of the Month" was won by Sasha.
 2. The science test was taken by Ron after he felt better.
 3. A secret compartment was found by the sales clerk.
 4. Fresh baked cookies were distributed by the restaurant baker.
 5. The music of Mozart was performed by the high school band.
- Write the perfect active-voice sentence. Underline the subject, and circle the action verb.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.



United States Night Map

9. Rewrite the paragraph, improving it with active voice.

With over 324-million people, the third most populous country in the world is America. Cities are lived in by 81% of Americans. The most people are in California and Texas. Age 79 is the average life expectancy. Each year the population center shifts a little farther Southwest. Over 20-million people are living in the New York City area, making it the largest city. Within 50 miles of the coast, half of the American population lives.

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

- Change each sentence from passive into active voice.
 1. The award for "Student of the Month" was won by Sasha.
Sasha won the "Student of the Month" award.
 2. The science test was taken by Ron after he felt better.
Ron took the science test after he felt better.
 3. A secret compartment was found by the sales clerk.
The sales clerk found a secret compartment.
 4. Fresh baked cookies were distributed by the restaurant baker.
The restaurant baker distributed freshly baked cookies.
 5. The music of Mozart was performed by the high school band.
The high school band performed music by Mozart.
- Write the perfect active-voice sentence. Underline the subject, and circle the action verb.

6. The house sat on a beachfront lot.
7. Diamonds glistened in the old mine.
8. Millions of stars form galaxies in the universe.



United States Night

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