

Converting ~~Passive~~ Voice to Active Voice

Before you begin, you will need to find the verb(s) in the sentence. A verb is the part of speech that expresses action, occurrence, or a state of being.

Action/Occurrence Verbs

I read for enjoyment.

I bring good news.

Artists can train others to draw.

There may be a storm tonight.

The stars glitter in the sky.

The fruit will rot if left out.

State of Being Verbs

Elephants exist.

I stand corrected.

The soldier was combative.

I feel restless.

The sky looks gray.

Maria seems stressed.

Passive Voice

Passive voice is a wimpy, less direct way of saying something.

Thing or person being acted upon *then* Verb in passive voice *then* Thing or person performing the action

Rents

are controlled

by the city.

Active Voice

A more direct way is to put the one performing the action in front of the thing or person being acted upon.

Thing or person performing the action *then* Verb in active voice *then* Thing or person being acted upon

The city

controls

rents.

EXAMPLES

PASSIVE: Tenants are protected by leases.

ACTIVE: Leases protect tenants.

PASSIVE: The coolant pumps were destroyed by a surge of power.

ACTIVE: A surge of power destroyed the coolant pumps.

PASSIVE: The paper was written by Sharon.

ACTIVE: Sharon wrote the paper.

EXERCISES

Try converting a few sentences on your own:

PASSIVE: The lamppost was hit by the car.

ACTIVE:

PASSIVE: The flyers were distributed by Dana.

ACTIVE:

PASSIVE: Experiments have been conducted by scientists to test the hypothesis.

ACTIVE:

PASSIVE: The entrance exam was failed by over one-third of the applicants to the school.

ACTIVE:

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