

ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

SENTENCES IN ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

Here are examples of sentences written in both the active voice and the passive voice, with the active voice sentence appearing first:

ACTIVE

Harry ate six shrimp at dinner.

VS.

PASSIVE

At dinner, six shrimp were eaten by Harry.

ACTIVE

Beautiful giraffes roam the savannah.

VS.

PASSIVE

The savannah is roamed by beautiful giraffes.

ACTIVE

Sue changed the flat tire.

VS.

PASSIVE

The flat tire was changed by Sue.

ACTIVE

We are going to watch a movie tonight.

VS.

PASSIVE

A movie is going to be watched by us tonight.

ACTIVE

I ran the obstacle course in record time.

VS.

PASSIVE

The obstacle course was run by me in record time.

ACTIVE

The crew paved the entire stretch of highway.

VS.

PASSIVE

The entire stretch of highway was paved by the crew.

ACTIVE

Mom read the novel in one day.

VS.

PASSIVE

The novel was read by Mom in one day.

ACTIVE VOICE

Tells what a person or thing does.

- The subject performs the action and typically comes before the action (*verb*).
- The object is who or what receives the action and typically comes after the action (*verb*).

ACTIVE

The critic wrote a scathing review.

VS.

PASSIVE

A scathing review was written by the critic.

ACTIVE

I will clean the house every Saturday.

VS.

PASSIVE

The house will be cleaned by me every Saturday.

ACTIVE

The staff is required to watch a safety video every year.

VS.

PASSIVE

A safety video will be watched by the staff every year.

ACTIVE

Tom painted the entire house.

VS.

PASSIVE

The entire house was painted by Tom.

PASSIVE VOICE

Tells what is done to someone or something.

- The subject performs the action and typically comes after the action (*verb*).
- The object is who or what receives the action and typically comes before the action (*verb*).

ACTIVE

The teacher always answers the students' questions.

VS.

PASSIVE

The students' questions are always answered by the teacher.

ACTIVE

Tom will finish his project by tomorrow.

VS.

PASSIVE

His project will be finished by Tom tomorrow.

ACTIVE

The forest fire destroyed the whole suburb.

VS.

PASSIVE

The whole suburb was destroyed by the forest fire.

ACTIVE

The cleaning crew vacuums and dusts the office every night.

VS.

PASSIVE

Every night the office is vacuumed and dusted by the cleaning crew.

ACTIVE

Larry generously donated money to the homeless shelter.

VS.

PASSIVE

Money was generously donated to the homeless shelter by Larry.

ACTIVE

Mary is going to make a special dinner for her husband.

VS.

PASSIVE

A special dinner is going to be made by Mary for her husband.

ACTIVE

Alex posted the video on Facebook.

VS.

PASSIVE

The video was posted on Facebook by Alex.

ACTIVE

No one responded to my sales ad.

VS.

PASSIVE

My sales ad was not responded to by anyone.

ACTIVE

The wedding planner is making all the reservations.

VS.

PASSIVE

All the reservations are being made by the wedding planner.

ACTIVE

Susan will bake two dozen cupcakes for the bake sale.

VS.

PASSIVE

For the bake sale, two dozen cupcakes will be baked by Susan.

ACTIVE

The director will give you instructions.

VS.

PASSIVE

Instructions will be given to you by the director.

ACTIVE

Thousands of tourists view the Grand Canyon every year.

VS.

PASSIVE

The Grand Canyon is viewed by thousands of tourists every year.

ACTIVE

The homeowners remodeled the house to help it sell.

VS.

PASSIVE

The house was remodeled by the homeowners to help it sell.

ACTIVE

The team will celebrate their victory tomorrow.

VS.

PASSIVE

The victory will be celebrated by the team tomorrow.

ACTIVE

The saltwater eventually corroded the metal beams.

VS.

PASSIVE

The metal beams were eventually corroded by the saltwater.

ACTIVE

The kangaroo carried her baby in her pouch.

VS.

PASSIVE

The baby was carried by the kangaroo in her pouch.

ACTIVE

Some people raise sugar cane in Hawaii.

VS.

PASSIVE

Sugar cane is raised by some people in Hawaii.

ACTIVE

She faxed her application for a new job.

VS.

PASSIVE

The application for a new job was faxed by her.