

ACTIVE VOICE PRACTICE

Writing should paint pictures and set moods. To do so, you must avoid flat, uninteresting word choices. Write about people who DO things, not people who have things done to them. The difference in the two is what we call active voice.

Note the difference in subject placement in the following:

I like cake.

▶ Here, the subject is actively engaged in the sentence.

Cake is liked by me.

▶ In this sentence, the subject sits by passively while “me” does all of the action.

Hint: If you see a linking/helping verb in your sentence, it might need revision:

▶ Is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been, do, does, did, has, have, had, should, could, would, may, might, must.

Rewrite the following sentences in active voice.

Passive

Active

The boy was bitten by the dog.

The money will be collected by Pooja.

A committee was formed by parents.

The pep rally was planned by student government.

The winning touchdown was scored by Green.

Stomachs were painted by the Cougar Coalition.

Orange was worn by the senior class.

The crowd was entertained by the band.

Wings were eaten after the game by the team.

Cookies were sold by the Young Democrats Club.
