

# Active/Passive Voice

- In active voice sentences the subject **does** the action.

*Example:* Liz played the piano.

- In passive voice sentences the subject **receives** the action.

*Example:* The piano was played by Liz.



- The sentence that uses the active voice is stronger, uses fewer words, and clearly shows who performs the action.
- The sentence that uses the passive voice is weaker and less direct. It is, however, not incorrect to use the passive voice.

- Sometimes the doer of the action is omitted in passive voice sentences.

*Example:* The piano was played.

**Directions:** Decide whether the following sentences are written in the active or passive voice. Then write the doer of the action on the line to the right. If the doer is unknown, write a question mark (?).

*Example:* We saw the game at the stadium. active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_ we

- 1) Thomas feeds his dog.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The dog is fed by Thomas.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The family went to the beach.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) The letter was written by Marshall.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) The game had been won by the blue team.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) The problem was solved.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) The stunt man risked his life.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) The fire was extinguished.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) The car was being cleaned by its owner.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) It gets cold here during the winter.    active / passive      \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Rewrite the *passive* voice sentences as *active* voice sentences.

**Passive:** The dog was hit by the car.

**Active:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passive:** The house will be built by the construction crew in five months.

**Active:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Rewrite the *active* voice sentences as *passive* voice sentences.

**Active:** Julie answered the question.

**Passive:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Active:** The dolphins have learned many tricks.

**Passive:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write one sentence using the active voice, and one using the passive voice.

**Active:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passive:** \_\_\_\_\_