

Active vs Passive Voice: Notes and Practice

In a sentence written in the **active voice**, the _____ of the sentence _____ the _____.

In a sentence written in the **passive voice** the _____ the _____.

Active: The candidate *believes* that Congress *must place* a ceiling on the budget.
Passive: *It is believed* by the candidate that a ceiling *must be placed* on the budget by Congress.

Active: Researchers earlier *showed* that high stress *can cause* heart attacks.
Passive: *It was earlier demonstrated* that heart attacks *can be caused* by high stress.

Active: The dog *bit* the man.
Passive: The man *was bitten* by the dog.

Here are **some tips and strategies for converting sentences from the passive to the active voice.**

- Look for a _____ (e.g., "by the dog" in the last example above). If you find one, the sentence may be in the passive voice. Rewrite the sentence so that the subject in the "by" clause is closer to the _____ of the sentence.
- If the subject of the sentence is somewhat anonymous, see if you can use a general term, such as "researchers," or "the study," or "experts in this field."

Class Practice:

The car has been fixed by the mechanic.

She accepted their invitation with pleasure.

Independent Practice:

Rewrite the following changing the active sentences to passive and passive sentences to active.

1. The thieves have been arrested by the police.

2. The marvelous performance delivered by the children enthralled us.

3. He has been invited to their party.

4. We have shipped your order.

5. The girl recited the poem beautifully.

HW: Fix this in your Midterm essay revisions= I will be checking and grading for active voice!