



## Active vs. Passive Voice

**Active Voice:** The subject does something.

**Passive Voice:** Something is done to the subject.

### Examples

**Active:** The astronaut collected rock samples.

**Passive:** Rock samples were collected by the astronaut.

### When to Use Active vs. Passive Voice?

**Active Voice** is used for most non-scientific writing. Using **Active Voice** makes meaning clear for readers and prevents sentences from becoming too wordy or complicated.

**Passive Voice** is used when the thing receiving the action is an important part of the sentence, especially in scientific and legal contexts, when the performer of the action is unknown, or when the subject is too distracting or irrelevant.

### Let's Practice!

Read each sentence and identify if it is using the **active** or **passive** voice.

The teacher collected last night's homework.

On Monday, breakfast was made by my sister.

The decision to proceed with the project was made by the board after extensive deliberation and analysis of the potential risks and benefits.

The effects of the new company policy were observed to distinguish the difference between early and late start hours.

Tomorrow, Sarah will take her brother's car to work instead of her own.

The painting, believed to be the most beloved masterpiece by the renowned artist, was discovered in an attic by a family who bought the house after their death.



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### Now You Try!

Write two sentences using **Active Voice** and two sentences using **Passive Voice**.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Where would you use **Active** vs. **Passive** voice?

#### **Active**

Business Communication

AMA Style

English

History

Philosophy

When the Subject is Relevant

#### **Passive**

Scientific Reports

Legal Writing

Medical Writing

When the Subject is Not Relevant



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