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: _____

Active/Passive Voice
Answers

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	Thomas
2) The dog is fed by Thomas.	active / passive	Thomas
3) The family went to the beach.	active / passive	The family
4) The letter was written by Marshall.	active / passive	Marshall
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	The stunt man
8) The fire was extinguished.	active / passive	?
9) The car was being cleaned by its owner.	active / passive	Its owner
10) It gets cold here during the winter.	active / passive	It

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

Passive: The dog was hit by the car.

Active: The car hit the dog.

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

Active: The construction crew will build the house in five months.

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

Active: Julie answered the question.

Passive: The question was answered by Julie.

Active: The dolphins had learned many tricks.

Passive: Many tricks had been learned by the dolphins.