

LESSON

4

Active and Passive Verbs

Active verb

A verb form that we use when the subject is doing the action

Passive verb

A verb form that we use when the action happens to the subject

Action verbs can be active or passive. When the verb is **active**, the subject is doing something. When the verb is **passive**, someone is doing something to the subject.

EXAMPLE

Active

Armando kicked the soccer ball from one end of the field to the other.

Passive

The soccer ball was kicked from one end of the field to the other.

Sentences that are written with active verbs express energy. Sentences written with passive verbs slow down your writing.

EXAMPLE

S

V

Prep. Phrase

The birthday gift was selected by Mrs. Choy.

S

V

DO

Mrs. Choy selected the birthday gift.

To change a passive sentence to an active sentence, use the object of the preposition *by* as the subject. Change the subject to the direct object. Remove the helping verb *be*. (The form is usually *is*, *are*, *was*, or *were*.)

Activity A Change the verb in each sentence from passive to active. Write the new sentences on your paper.

- 1) The decision was reached by the committee.
- 2) The costumes for the play were designed by Angela and Neeru.
- 3) The winning goal was scored by Armando.
- 4) All of the winning songs are being played by the school band.
- 5) The best song of the evening was performed by Emily.

Sometimes the sentence does not have a prepositional phrase beginning with *by*. You have to figure out who did the action.

EXAMPLE

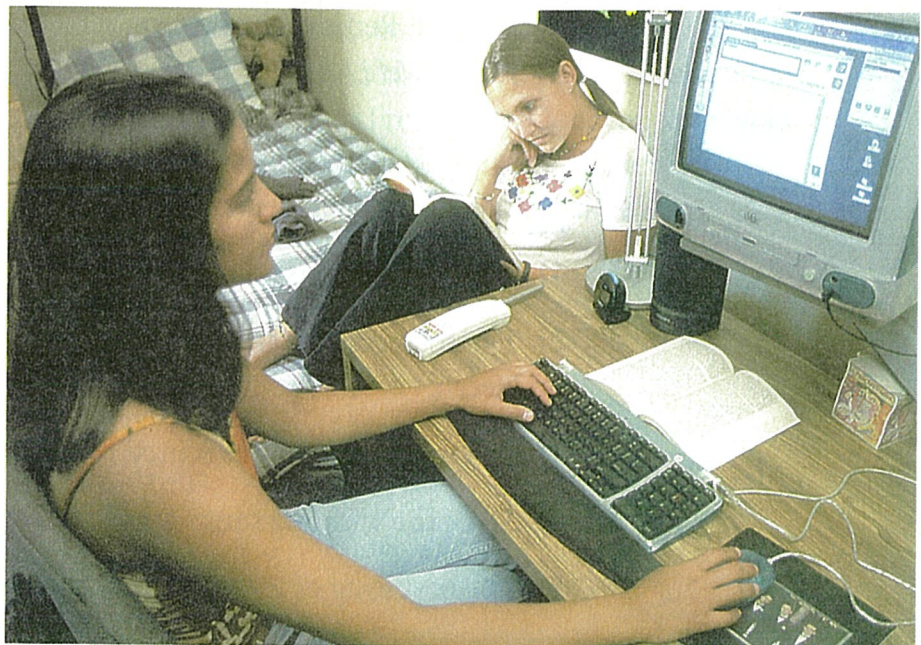
The window was broken last night. (The sentence does not tell you who broke the window.)

Someone broke the window last night. (You have to add a noun or pronoun as the subject to make the verb active. Here we have added the indefinite pronoun *someone* because we don't know who broke the window.)

Activity B Rewrite these sentences changing the passive verbs to active verbs. You may use an indefinite pronoun or a noun as the subject of the new sentence. You may add information to the sentence.

- 1) Emily was called on the telephone.
- 2) The e-mail that Armando received was sent by Michelle.
- 3) The birthday party for Neeru was planned by her friends.
- 4) Neeru was hired by the manager of the music store.
- 5) Angela's lunch was packed by her mother.

Michelle read and responded to Armando's e-mail.



Sometimes passive verbs appear in dependent clauses.

EXAMPLE

Passive	Have you seen the latest movie that was produced by Steven Spielberg?
Active	Have you seen the latest movie that Steven Spielberg produced ?

Activity C Rewrite these sentences changing the passive verbs to active verbs.

- 1) The puppy that was found by Nathan was returned to Julie.
- 2) Did you find the book that was checked out of the library by Emily?
- 3) One time I tasted a cake that had been baked in Greece.
- 4) Because we didn't have one of our own, we used a ball that was owned by the bowling alley.
- 5) The paper that was thrown in our yard by the paper carrier got wet.

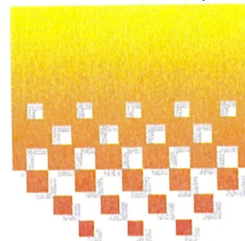
Spelling Builder

Prefixes per-, pre-, pro-

It is easy to misspell words with the prefixes *per-*, *pre-*, and *pro-*. Exaggerate the first syllable of *per-* words. For example, say "purrr-fect" for *perfect*. This will help you remember where to write the *r*. Mispronounce the first syllable in *pre-* and *pro-* words. For example, say "prē-dict" for *predict* and "prō-tect" for *protect*. This will help you remember when to write *e* and when to write *o*.

Choose *per-*, *pre-*, or *pro-* to complete these words. Write the words on your paper. Look up each word in a dictionary.

___duce	___form	___pare
___tend	___vide	___mit



LESSON 4

Review

Rewrite these sentences changing the passive verbs to active verbs. You may use an indefinite pronoun as the subject of a new sentence. You may also add information to the sentence.

- 1) Nothing is better than being served dinner at home.
- 2) The dinner was prepared by Mrs. Choy.
- 3) The recipe had been handed down in the family for generations.
- 4) Mrs. Choy was given the recipe by her mother.
- 5) Have you tasted the latest batch of General Tao's chicken prepared by Mrs. Choy?
- 6) The dessert was made by Angela's sister Julie.
- 7) Julie was chosen as one of her company's top employees.
- 8) During dinner, the cell phone that was brought by Emily rang.
- 9) The telephone was finally answered.
- 10) "I have been selected by the community college for a scholarship," Emily told them.

Write five sentences using these verbs. Make each verb active. Use any tense of the verb you choose—present, past, future, or perfect.

- 11) bounce
- 12) select
- 13) write
- 14) add
- 15) discovered

Creating Images with Writing

Language that appeals to one of the five senses can bring writing to life. The five senses are seeing, touching, tasting, smelling, and hearing.

EXAMPLE

On a cold day, Mrs. Choy feels as though her bones are creaking.

He walked around on the brittle grass.

Activity A Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the words in each sentence that appeal to the senses. Then write the sense or senses appealed to.

- 1) The clouds floated across the sky like huge balls of cotton.
- 2) The scent of the bacon that we fried for breakfast lingered in the air.
- 3) We enjoyed the noise the bread crust made as we crunched it in our mouths.
- 4) After sitting all day at a desk, Mrs. Young thought someone was sticking hot needles into the back of her neck.
- 5) The children's delighted laughter as they fed the quacking ducks brought tears of joy to their parents' faces.

Activity B Write a sentence that appeals to each one of the senses on your paper.

- 1) sight
- 2) sound
- 3) touch
- 4) taste
- 5) smell

Simile

An indirect comparison that tells how one thing is like something else

Comparisons can give the reader a mental picture. We can use **similes** and **metaphors** to make comparisons. A simile is an indirect comparison that tells how one thing is *like* something else.

EXAMPLE

Nathan is like smoke. When you try to grab him, he evaporates.

When angry, **Armando roars like a lion.**

Metaphor

A direct comparison that says something is the same as something else

A metaphor is a direct comparison that says something is the same as something else.

EXAMPLE

"All the world's a stage," wrote William Shakespeare.

Activity C Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the similes and metaphors.

- 1) The leaves on that tree are as green as an emerald.
- 2) "Your room is a pigpen," said Nathan's father.
- 3) My computer is faster than lightning.
- 4) She sings like a lark.
- 5) The news spread like wildfire.

Personification

Giving human characteristics to an object or an animal

Personification is giving human characteristics to an object or an animal.

EXAMPLE

The wind ripped up the street, whining past the plate glass windows.

In summer, **a tree may wear a nest of robins in her hair**, according to poet Joyce Kilmer.

"The fog came in on little cat feet," wrote poet Carl Sandburg.

Activity D Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the examples of personification.

- 1) The tree spread its branches wide, inviting us to seek shelter there.
- 2) The United States Constitution protects the rights of its citizens.
- 3) The shelves of the bookcase groaned under the weight of the encyclopedias.
- 4) The stars seemed to skip across the sky.
- 5) "The computer ate my homework!" exclaimed Emily.

Exaggeration

A statement that makes a situation seem bigger or more serious than it is

Exaggeration is a statement that makes a situation seem bigger or more serious than it is. In exaggeration, the words go beyond the truth to make a point or to add interest.

EXAMPLE

You can **smell that garbage in the next state!**
I saw **a tree that was as big as a skyscraper.**

Activity E Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the example of exaggeration.

- 1) I am so hungry I could eat a bear.
- 2) They served giant-sized hamburgers for lunch.
- 3) Emily sleeps so soundly that a tornado wouldn't wake her up.
- 4) That cake is so big it would take a week to eat it.
- 5) "I studied a million hours for that quiz," Efran claimed.

Alliteration

The use of two or more words together that begin with the same sound

Alliteration is the use of two or more words together that begin with the same sound. Alliteration makes writing more rhythmic.

EXAMPLE

She wiggled her toes in the **soft silky sand**.

Activity F Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the alliteration.

- 1) Nathan had never seen the sea so still.
- 2) Armando is a pleasant, polite person.
- 3) The sunshine shimmered on the sea.
- 4) There was a batch of buttery biscuits on the breakfast table.
- 5) The campers walked down the long, lonely trail.

Activity G Use each example of alliteration in a sentence.

- 1) fierce, foaming waves
- 2) sad-sounding sighs
- 3) the fat furry feline
- 4) first to fall
- 5) without wondering why

The sand crystals
shimmered in the
sunlight.

