

Active verb

A verb that is used if the subject does the action.

Use an **active verb** if the subject is doing the action. The sentence tells who did what.

EXAMPLE Carlos **wrote** a story.

Passive verb

A verb that is used when the action happens to the subject.

Use a **passive verb** if the action happens to the subject. The sentence tells what was done by whom.

EXAMPLE The story **was written** by Carlos.

To form the passive verb, use the helping verb *be* with the past participle (the third part of the verb).

EXAMPLE Correct: The story **was written** by Carlos.
Incorrect: The story **was wrote** by Carlos.

In some sentences that use passive voice, the person doing the action is not named. The person is “understood.”

EXAMPLES Today the bank **was robbed**. (by someone)
The pass **was thrown** well. (by someone)

Activity A Write the verbs and their helpers in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) The note was discovered by Mary.
- 2) We were disturbed by a loud noise.
- 3) The telephone was finally answered.
- 4) The ball was hit to left field.
- 5) The car was greased last month.

Activity B Write the verbs in these sentences on your paper. Beside each verb, write whether it is *active* or *passive*.

- 1) John Steinbeck wrote many stories.
- 2) *The Red Pony* was written by John Steinbeck.
- 3) Edgar Allan Poe wrote many poems.
- 4) “The Raven” was written by Poe.
- 5) That cake was baked by my aunt.
- 6) My aunt baked that cake.

Activity C Write two sentences for each of these verbs on your paper. In the first sentence, use the word as an active verb. In the second sentence, use the word as a passive verb.

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|-------------|-----------|
| 1) cover | 6) hit |
| 2) direct | 7) invent |
| 3) discover | 8) cook |
| 4) disturb | 9) answer |
| 5) teach | 10) pack |

Lesson 6 Review

Part A Write the verb and any helper in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) The cotton gin was invented by Eli Whitney.
- 2) Cotton seeds are removed from the cotton.
- 3) In 1842, the Oregon Trail was explored by John Fremont.
- 4) Fremont was later elected as one of California's first senators.
- 5) *Gone With the Wind* was written by Margaret Mitchell.
- 6) Her book was made into a successful movie.
- 7) Indiana was settled in 1808 by Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader.
- 8) Tecumseh was killed at the battle of the Thames in Canada during the War of 1812.
- 9) In 1848, Lewis Cass was defeated by Zachary Taylor.
- 10) Taylor was elected as President of the United States.

Part B Rewrite each of these sentences on your paper. Change the verb in bold from passive to active.

Example Passive: The cotton gin **was invented** by Eli Whitney.

Active: Eli Whitney **invented** the cotton gin.

- 1) The batter **was hit** by the wild pitch.
- 2) John's bag **was packed** by his mother.
- 3) The telephone **was answered** by the receptionist.
- 4) The neighbors **were disturbed** by the barking dog.
- 5) The oil **was changed** last month by the mechanic.

Chapter 4 Review

Part A Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) George Herman Ruth began his baseball career in 1914.
- 2) His teammates gave him the nickname “Babe.”
- 3) He first played with the minor league Baltimore Orioles.
- 4) Baltimore sold his contract to the Boston Red Sox.
- 5) Babe pitched and batted left-handed.
- 6) In 1919, he broke all of the records for home runs in a season.
- 7) The New York Yankees had been looking at Ruth for some time.
- 8) In 1920, he was sent to the Yankees.
- 9) He would play in games in the outfield.
- 10) He led the league in home runs for many years.
- 11) He was hitting more home runs every year.
- 12) In 1927, he set a new world record.
- 13) He had hit sixty home runs in a single year.
- 14) In his last game, Babe Ruth hit three home runs in a row.
- 15) He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

Part B Number your paper from 1 to 25. Write the verb that should appear in each sentence to make it correct.

- 1) Mr. Torres (went, gone) to work.
- 2) The Wildcats will (play, played) their first game on Saturday.
- 3) The team (practice, practices) every day.
- 4) They (want, wants) a victory.
- 5) Everyone (like, likes) to win.

- 6) He (have, has) never had an injury.
- 7) They have (score, scored) two touchdowns.
- 8) Monday they (hurried, hurried) to work.
- 9) Last week the man (testifies, testified) at the trial.
- 10) I have (beggined, begun) my work.
- 11) He (bring, brings) his lunch every day.
- 12) Yvonne (knowed, knew) the answer.
- 13) Sara always (do, does) her work well.
- 14) The band (is, are) practicing now.
- 15) The children (is, are) riding their bikes.
- 16) He (be, is) flying to Florida.
- 17) Did you (finish, finished) that book?
- 18) Did Juan (go, went) home yet?
- 19) He (must, musts) go home now.
- 20) Janine (is, could) be finished by noon.
- 21) The book was (wrote, written) by Jack London.
- 22) That cake was (bake, baked) by Bob.
- 23) The electric lightbulb was (inventing, invented) by Thomas Edison.
- 24) We (was, were) disturbed by the bell.
- 25) The barking dog (make, made) everyone angry.

Test Taking Tip

Before you answer any question on an exam, skim through the whole test to find out what is expected of you.