

# IT IS WRITTEN—I WROTE IT!

The title above gives examples of both the passive and the active voice. A verb is in **active voice** when its action is **performed by its subject**. A verb is in **passive voice** when the action is **performed on the subject**.



*Example: Active:* The car hit the tree.  
*Passive:* The tree was hit by the car.



Passive voice puts the action of a sentence in a weak and awkward position. Active voice usually makes writing more forceful and dynamic. (High school and college teachers often give less credit to written work which consistently employs passive voice.)

The sentences below employ either active or passive verbs. Smile when you read each active sentence. Rewrite each passive sentence to make it active.

- 1. The teacher taught the lesson.

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- 2. We were embarrassed by the bad joke.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. My purse was stolen.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. I recognized the thief!

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5. The thief was put in jail.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6. I've lost my mind!

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7. Have the grades been recorded?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 8. The story has never been told.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 9. Are those the eggs brought by the Easter bunny?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 10. Is this the hat upon which an elephant sat?

\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Active/Passive Voice

On the line, write whether the sentence uses the verb in the active voice or passive voice.  
Write Active or Passive on the line.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The pilot instructed us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A fly ball was caught by Alice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The blaze has been put out by the firefighters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. On Sunday afternoon we painted the den.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Brianne was elected to the student council.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The CD has been misplaced by my cousin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The new animation software creates vivid images.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Many of the yearbook photos were taken by Adrienne.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Shoddy work was done on this building.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mike and I don't understand this algebra question.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. I am unloading the food and supplies at the campsite.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The tickets had been sold months before the concert.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Andre was awarded the certificate for his service to the community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Julia caught the Frisbee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. We were instructed by the coach to try our best.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. The firefighters have put out the fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The 10K race was won by Mikki.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Valerie pitched a no-hitter, and her team won the game.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I picked up the telephone receiver quickly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The bed had not been slept in for days.