

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

In **active voice** sentences, the subject **does** the action.

Sentence structure: subject + action verb + object receiving the action.

Dogs bury bones.

Sandy takes cupcakes each Monday.

In **passive voice** sentences, the subject **receives** the action.

Sentence structure: subject + (auxiliary verb + past participle) + object doing the action.

Bones are buried by dogs.

Cupcakes are taken by Sandy each Monday.

Exercise: Change the active voice sentences to passive voice.

1. The artist sings a song as he paints.

2. The little girl pounds the piano when mad.

3. The man with no teeth wants new dentures.

4. Many of my friend surf the internet during class.

5. The weatherman forecasts storms for tomorrow.

6. My grandfather made the chest of drawers for my wedding present.

7. The talented cardiac surgeon saves lives every day.

8. Many of the stars perform concerts for their favorite charity.



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Cupcakes are taken by Sandy each Monday.

Exercise: Change the active voice sentences to passive voice.

1. The artist sings a song as he paints.

A song is sung by the artist as he paints.

2. The little girl pounds the piano when mad.

The piano is pounded by the little girl when mad.

3. The man with no teeth wants new dentures.

New dentures are wanted by the man with no teeth.

4. Many of my friends surf the internet during class.

The internet is surfed by many of my friends during class.

5. The weatherman forecasts storms for tomorrow.

Storms are forecasted by the weatherman for tomorrow.

6. My grandfather made the chest of drawers for my wedding present.

The chest of drawers was made by my grandfather for my wedding present.

7. The talented cardiac surgeon saves lives every day.

Lives are saved by the talented cardiac surgeon every day.

8. Many of the stars perform concerts for their favorite charity.

Concerts are performed by many of the stars for their favorite charity.

