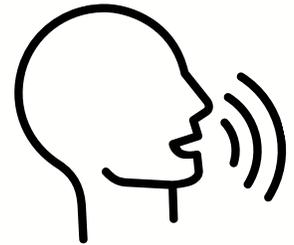


Active vs. Passive Voice

Rule of thumb

- When a sentence is in active voice, the subject of the sentence is the one doing the action.
- When a sentence is in passive voice, the subject is the person or thing being acted on or affected by the verbs action



Active Voice

Asserts that the person or thing represented performs the action represented by the verb.

- Subject + Verb + Object

"**She** slammed on the brakes as the car sped downhill"

- This is an example of active voice because the sentence subject performs the action

More Examples of Active Voice

- " The **dog** chases the ball"
 - The subject "dog," is performing the action, "chase," on the target of the action "ball."

Final Reminders

- It does not matter the verb you are using, structuring your sentence so the subject (noun) performs the verb, IS writing in active voice
- Use active voice when you want your reader to focus on the subject of your sentence and the action it is doing rather than on the action's target
- Active voice is preferred in formal and academic writing. It is seen as more direct and often makes sentences easier to read or understand.

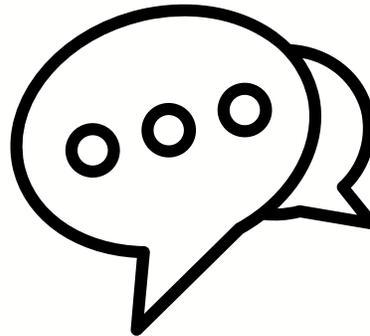
Passive Voice

Tell us what is done to someone or something. The subject is being acted upon.

- Object + verb + subject

A way to recognize passive-voice expressions is that sentences will include a form of "be" such as:

- am
- is
- was
- were
- are
- been



- In passive voice, the person or thing acted on comes first, and the actor is added at the end.
 - E.g. "The uncertainty principle was formulated by Werner Heisenberg in 1927"
- There are times where passive voice works better than active voice such as certain formal, professional, and legal discussion.
 - E.g.
 - Reports of crimes or incidents with unknown perpetrators
 - Scientific contexts
 - when you want to emphasize an action itself and the doer of the action is irrelevant or distracting.