



Passive Voice vs. Active Voice

The active and passive voices are the two grammatical voices. Voice refers to the form of a verb that indicates when a subject acts or receives the action. When the subject performs the action, it is in active voice, and when the subject receives the action, it is in passive voice.

1. Active vs. Passive

- Active Voice: The subject **does** the action of the verb.

Max *threw* a party for his best friend's birthday.

- Passive Voice: The subject **receives** the action of the verb.

The birthday party *was thrown by* Max.

2. Tips for recognizing passive voice:

- Passive voice creates awkward sentences.

I am reminded of songs I used to hear when I was younger by watching old movies.

- The verb phrase will always include a form of *be*, such as *am, is, are, was, were, been*.

The tests *have been turned in* to be graded.

- The sentence may also include the phrase “*by the*” or simply “*by*.”

The cake *will have been made by* Alex before the party.

3. Changing Passive to Active

- Find the “*by the*” phrase and make it the subject of the sentence.

Passive: The song was sung *by the choir*.

Active: *The choir* sang the song.