

Name: _____

Active and Passive Voice

Learning the difference between active and passive voice can be tricky. Both types of sentences use action verbs. The difference is how the action relates to the subject.

In ACTIVE VOICE, the subject performs the action.

Oliver grew giant carrots in his garden.

The neighborhood bunnies devoured Oliver's carrots.

Oliver posted a sign that said *Don't Eat The Carrots!*

In PASSIVE VOICE, the subject receives the action.

The giant carrots in the garden were grown by Oliver.

Oliver's carrots were devoured by the neighborhood bunnies.

A sign that said *Don't Eat the Carrots* was posted by Oliver.

For each sentence below, write A on the blank line if it is ACTIVE, or P if it is PASSIVE.

1. _____ The pirate hoisted the sails.
2. _____ The sails were hoisted by the pirate.
3. _____ The bat gulped the moth.
4. _____ The moth was gulped by the bat.
5. _____ The plane was flown by the pilot.
6. _____ The pilot flew the plane.
7. _____ A huge pot of spaghetti was cooked by the chef.
8. _____ The chef cooked a huge pot of spaghetti.
9. _____ The poodle chased the squirrel.
10. _____ The squirrel was chased by the poodle.

ANSWER KEY

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In ACTIVE VOICE, the subject performs the action.

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In PASSIVE VOICE, the subject receives the action.

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A sign that said *Don't Eat the Carrots* was posted by Oliver.

Underline the noun in each sentence below. On the line next to the sentence, tell whether the noun is singular or plural.

For each sentence below, write A on the blank line if it is ACTIVE, or P if it is PASSIVE.

1. A The pirate hoisted the sails.
2. P The sails were hoisted by the pirate.
3. A The bat gulped the moth.
4. P The moth was gulped by the bat.
5. P The plane was flown by the pilot.
6. A The pilot flew the plane.
7. P A huge pot of spaghetti was cooked by the chef.
8. A The chef cooked a huge pot of spaghetti.
9. A The poodle chased the squirrel.
10. P The squirrel was chased by the poodle.