

Active Voice to Passive Voice

A sentence is in active voice when the subject of the sentence is performing the action.

Example 1: Pat drove the car.

The subject *Pat* is the actor in the sentence. Pat is driving.

A sentence is in passive voice when the subject is not performing the action, but the subject is instead being acted upon by something else.

Example 2: The car was driven by Pat.

The subject *car* is not performing any action, instead Pat is acting upon the subject. Pat is still driving, but is no longer the subject of the sentence.

Change each of the following sentences from active voice to passive voice.

1. The committee presented the report.
2. Karl watched the scary movie alone.
3. The burglar stole the television in the house.
4. I opened the window in the study for some fresh air.
5. The tornado lifted the house into the air.
6. Elizabeth wrote the song as part of a holiday celebration.
7. Philip and Daisy selected the music for the dance.
8. While eating dinner, the family discussed the day's events.

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Change each of the following sentences from active voice to passive voice.

Actual student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

1. The committee presented the report.
The report was presented by the committee.
2. Karl watched the scary movie alone.
The movie was watched by Karl alone.
3. The burglar stole the television in the house.
The television in the house was stolen by the burglar.
4. I opened the window in the study for some fresh air.
The window in the study was opened by me for some fresh air.
5. The tornado lifted the house into the air.
The house was lifted into the air by the tornado.
6. Elizabeth wrote the song as part of a holiday celebration.
The song was written by Elizabeth as part of a holiday celebration.
7. Philip and Daisy selected the music for the dance.
The music for the dance was selected by Philip and Daisy.
8. While eating dinner, the family discussed the day's events.
The day's events were discussed by the family while eating dinner.