



Active/Passive Voice

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM M-Th,
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Definition: When a sentence is written in the active voice, the subject performs the action; in the passive voice, the subject receives the action.

Active Voice:

Active voice writing is best for academic writing, establishing authority, and often for creative writing. Active voice follows the pattern *subject, verb, object*.

Examples:

Sherr paint a house last weekend.
(Subject)↑ ↑(Verb) ↑(Object)

I walk my dog everyday.
(Subject)↑ ↑(Verb) ↑(Object)

Passive Voice:

Passive voice writing is often used for scientific writing or to shift emphasis to the object. Passive writing follows the pattern *object, verb, subject*.

Examples:

The house was painted by Sherr last weekend.
(Object)↑ ↑(Verb) ↑(Subject)

My dog is walked by me everyday.
(Object)↑ ↑(Verb) ↑(Subject)