

Name: _____

Identifying Passive and Active Voice

PASSIVE VOICE – The subject **RECEIVES** the action.

Example: The treasure was guarded by the fire-breathing dragon.

ACTIVE VOICE – The subject **PERFORMS** the action.

Example: The fire-breathing dragon guarded the treasure.

- **PASSIVE VOICE** always uses the past participle of the verb + auxiliary (helping) verbs.
- **PASSIVE VOICE** usually includes a prepositional phrase starting with **by**.
- **ACTIVE VOICE** usually follows a Subject + Verb + Direct Object pattern.
- **PASSIVE** and **ACTIVE VOICE** both use **ACTION** verbs.
- **PASSIVE** and **ACTIVE VOICE** can be written in any tense.

Can you tell the difference between active and passive voice? Read each sentence below. Write an A if it is ACTIVE and a P if it is PASSIVE.

1. _____ Carlos can play the trombone.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____ An Australian instrument, called the didgeridoo, was played by Sam.

7. _____ The program has been designed by the art club.

8. _____ The art club has designed the program.

9. _____ My friends enjoy African music.

10. _____ African music is enjoyed by my friends.



ANSWER KEY

Identifying Passive and Active Voice

PASSIVE VOICE – *The subject RECEIVES the action.*

Example: The treasure was guarded by the fire-breathing dragon.

ACTIVE VOICE – *The subject PERFORMS the action.*

Example: The fire-breathing dragon guarded the treasure.

- **PASSIVE VOICE** always uses the past participle of the verb + auxiliary (helping) verbs.
- **PASSIVE VOICE** usually includes a prepositional phrase starting with *by*.
- **ACTIVE VOICE** usually follows a Subject + Verb + Direct Object pattern.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.