



Writing in Active Voice

Important:



At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Microsoft Forms quiz. It is recommended that you score an 80% or higher.

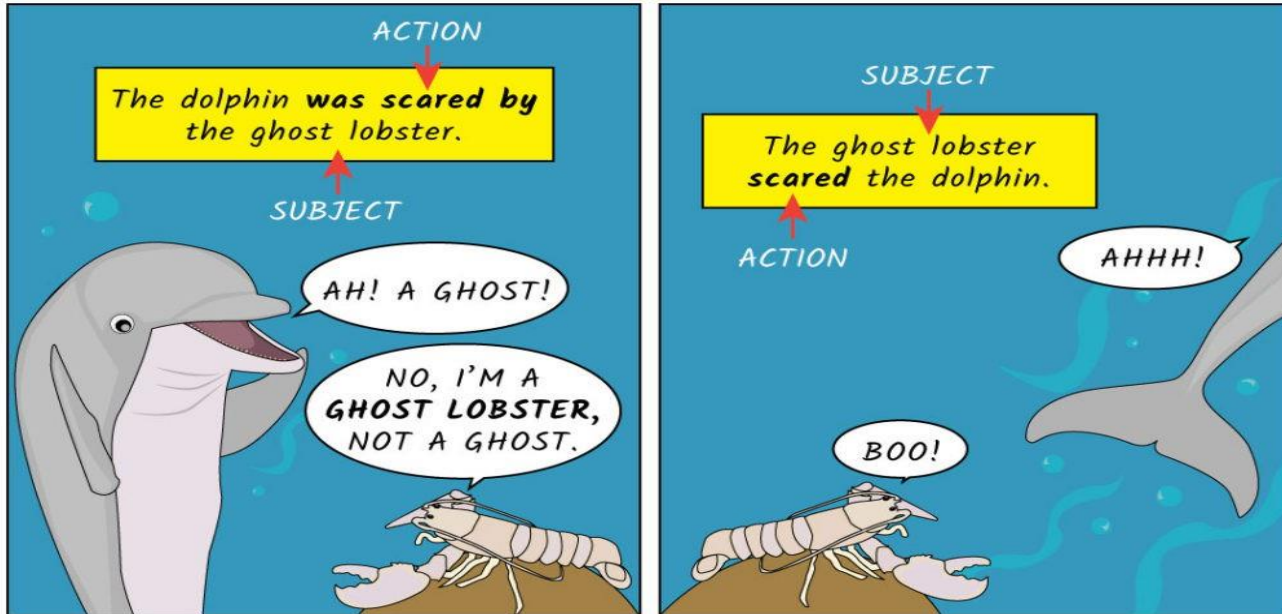
Please take your time reviewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

Objectives:

- Use active voice in undergraduate writing.
- Differentiate the usage of active from passive voice.
- Practice the use of active voice.

Why is writing in active voice important?

PASSIVE VOICE VS. **ACTIVE VOICE**



Why is writing in active voice important?

- It is crucial as it fosters a sense of individuality and self-expression, essential for academic and personal growth. It enhances students' ability to communicate ideas clearly and persuasively, a vital skill in both educational and professional settings. Additionally, a distinct writing voice helps students stand out in their assignments and writing, reflecting their unique perspectives and thought processes.

Active Voice Benefits

- It clearly identifies the action and who is performing it, making sentences straightforward and easy to understand. This is particularly useful in instructional and technical writing, where clarity is paramount.
- Beneficial in academic writing, technical documents, and journalism, where conveying information accurately and unambiguously is crucial.
- It creates engaging and dynamic sentences. This is because active voice tends to make statements more forceful and assertive, which can be more compelling for the reader.
- It is effective in persuasive writing, advertising, and storytelling, where keeping the reader's attention and interest is key.

Active Voice Benefits

- Active voice generally leads to concise sentences. It often eliminates unnecessary words that passive voice constructions typically include, making the writing more succinct and to the point.
- Writing in active voice tends to improve the flow of text, making it readable and easier to follow. This is particularly beneficial in educational materials and documents intended for a wide audience, where maintaining reader interest and understanding is crucial.

Advantages of Using Active Voice

- **Clarity:** Active voice identifies the subject performing the action, making sentences direct and easier to understand.
- **Conciseness:** Active voice often uses fewer words than passive voice, resulting in concise and straightforward sentences.



Disadvantages of Passive Voice



- **Confusing for Readers:** Passive voice can obscure who is performing the action in a sentence. It makes it difficult for undergraduate students to understand the meaning or who is responsible for an action.

Advantages of Using Active Voice

- Engagement: Active voice is dynamic and engaging for readers, making the writing livelier and interesting.



Disadvantages of Passive Voice

- Weakens Argumentation: passive voice can weaken the persuasiveness of an argument. It tends to make statements less forceful and assertive. This is not ideal for undergraduates aiming to present strong, clear arguments in their essays or papers.

Structure

Active voice follows this structure:

Subject + Verb + Object

Notice: Only sentences with active voice can have direct objects. This is because in the passive voice, the subject receives the action.

Examples

Examples

María skies at the ice rink.

subject verb

Prepositional Phrase



Juan plays the guitar.

subject verb object



Lola, the dog, eats her food.

subject

verb

object



The doctor prescribes medicines to the patient.

subject

verb

Direct Object

Indirect Object



Which sentences are written in active voice?

English classes are being taught exclusively in the English language.

The professor requires students to practice the oral and writing competencies in each class.

Students usually prefer to speak in Spanish.

One of the master poets of the Harlem Renaissance is Langston Hughes.

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✗ One of the master poets of the Harlem Renaissance is Langston Hughes.

Which sentences are written in active voice?

__The musical group of the University of Puerto Rico (Tuna) offers serenades by requests of the academic community.

__The singer Tracy Chapman is famous for the song Fast Car.

__Bad Bunny started posting his songs at *SoundCloud* on 2016.

__“Is this love” was one of the famous songs written by Bob Marley.

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Let's Review

Active Voice and Passive Voice

Active Voice	Passive Voice
John won the gold medal.	The gold medal was won by John.
The tutor revised my essay.	My essay was revised by the tutor.
My mother remodeled her house.	The house was remodeled by my mother.

Observe that the active voice sentence is direct and concise. Pay attention to the grammar differences and verb tenses.

Understand Active vs. Passive Voice.

In active voice, the subject of the sentence performs the action expressed by the verb.

For example, “The researcher conducted the experiment.”

In contrast, passive voice places the subject at the end, like “The experiment was conducted by the researcher.”

Active voice is generally direct and vigorous.

Final Advice

- Recognize the importance of clarity in your college writing. Active voice typically makes students' sentences clearer and more straightforward. This is crucial in academic writing, where complex ideas need to be conveyed as clearly as possible.
- Use active voice to emphasize the subject at hand. Active voice allows the student to highlight the doer of the action, making the writing statements assertive and its arguments compelling.

References

ELA, S. (2023, February 16). *Learn how to use active and passive voice in your writing " Super ela! Super ELA!*
<https://super-ela.com/learn-how-to-use-active-and-passive-voice-in-your-writing/>

After completing the module, click on the following link to take the quiz and send the report to your professor:

<https://forms.office.com/r/b82iEJcz3R>

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<https://generales.uprrp.edu/competencias-linguisticas/>