

Passive Voice and Active Voice

Studyladder



Active Voice Vs Passive Voice

Active Voice

In a sentence written in the active voice, the subject of the sentence is doing the action.

example:

The **dog** chased the man.

'doer' of action → ← action ← 'receiver' of action

Passive Voice

In a sentence written in the passive voice, the subject is being acted upon. (The subject is passive.)

example:

The **man** was chased by the **dog**.

'receiver' of action → ← action ← 'doer' of action

- Sentences written in the passive voice may include the words 'by the ...'



It is generally better to write in active voice.

(Sentences written in active voice are often more easily understood.)

However,

Use passive voice when:

- The 'doer' of the action is unknown or not necessary in the sentence.

example:

Groceries were generously donated to the homeless shelter.

- The writer wants to emphasise the action rather than the 'doer' of the action.

example:

The obstacle course was run in record time.

