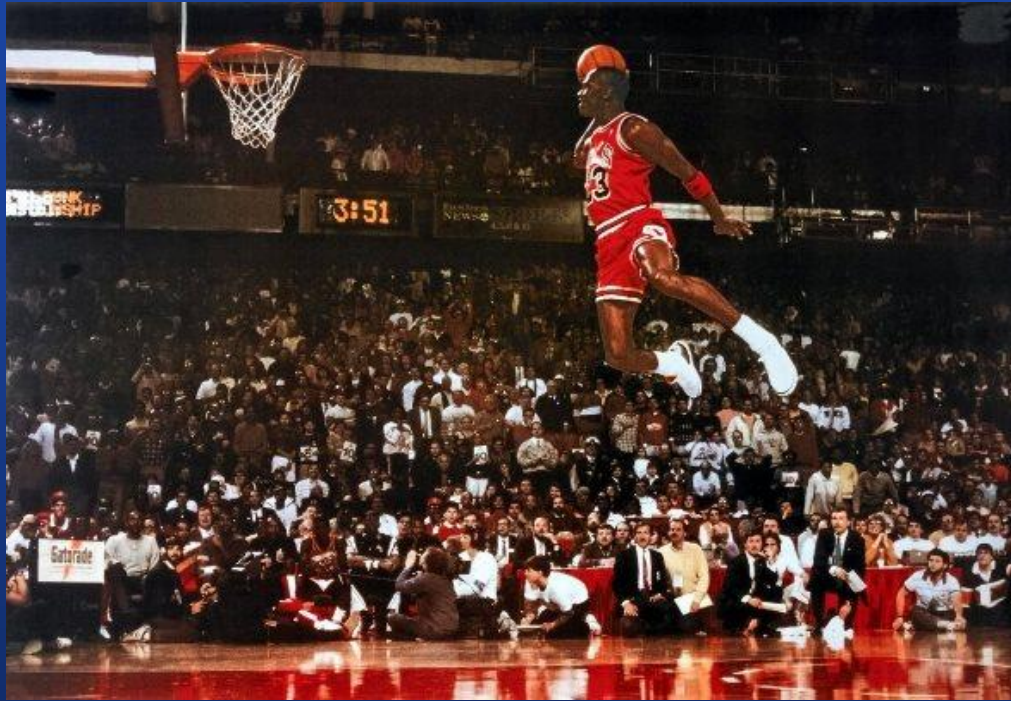




Using Active and Passive Voice

Would you rather?



Watch Jordan play basketball live!

Or just hear someone talk about it?

Verbs and Voice

- Voice is the form a verb takes to indicate whether the subject of the verb performs or receives the action.
- There are two types of voice: **active voice** and **passive voice**.



Active Voice

The subject of the sentence ***performs*** or ***does*** the action

Example:

Jordan dunked the basketball before the buzzer.

Jordan shot the basketball from the free throw line.

Jordan made a three pointer.



Passive Voice

The subject of the sentence
receives the action

Example:



The ball was dunked by Jordan.

The basket-ball was shot by Jordan.

A three-pointer was made by Jordan.

Why does it matter?



IT MATTERS SINCE
STRONG WRITING
USES ACTIVE
VOICE!!!!



Why does it matter?

- Active voice is more direct and concise.
- Passive voice is usually more wordy
- Active voice is like watching Lebron play.
- Passive voice is describing something that has already happened and is boring

MOST OF THE TIME, YOU WANT TO USE
ACTIVE VOICE!!!!



When would you WANT to use passive voice?

- When intentionally trying to hide the subject of the sentence.

For example, a politician might say:

“The mistake was made by someone.”

- Hiding the subject helps him/her hide the blame.

When to use passive voice

- When intentionally trying to minimize the guilt of the subject.

For example, a cheating student might say,

“The essay was copied by my friend” vs.

“My friend copied the essay”

- When passive voice better emphasizes the main point of the message, such as:

“Children were harmed by the drunk driver.”

Form of Passive Voice Verbs

- The passive voice requires a "double verb" and will always have the verb "to be" and the past participle (usually the "en/ed/t" form) of another verb.

- **Example:**

Active: John baked the bread.

Passive: The bread was baked by John. (Was is a form of the verb "be".)

Form of Passive Voice Verbs

- Writers should be familiar with the forms of "to be" , often called linking verbs, so that they can easily identify the passive voice in their work.
- Review the forms of "to be":
 - ***am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been***

Form of Passive Voice Verbs

- Note the forms of "to be" in the examples of the verb "to kick" in various forms of the passive voice:

is kicked-----had **been** kicked

was kicked-----is going to **be**
kicked

is being kicked-----will **be** kicked

has **been** kicked-----can **be** kicked

was **being** kicked-----should **be** kicked

Form of Passive Voice Verbs

- Examples:

- **Passive: The cookies were eaten by the children.**
- **Active: The children ate the cookies.**
- **Passive: The tunnels are dug by the gophers.**
- **Active: The gophers dug the tunnels.**

Passive Voice

Indirect

Ex.

They are often taken to interesting places by their friends.

Active Voice

Direct

Ex.

Their friends often take them to interesting places.

Passive Voice

More wordy sentences, less concise

Ex.

Topics for the next essay are being considered by the students.

Active Voice

Less wordy sentences, more concise

Ex.

The students considered topics for the next essay.

Changing from Passive to Active

Find the subject

Change the verb accordingly

Change these



The essay was written by Shelia.

The big, green apples were left on the table by the professor.

Active Voice

Shelia wrote the essay.

The professor left the big, green apples on the table.

Change these

The apple was eaten by Charlene.

Clams are considered a delicacy by many people.

Active Voice

Charlene ate the apple.

Many people consider clams a delicacy.

Let's Practice

Label the following sentences ACTIVE or PASSIVE.

1. Louise made the chocolate cake.
2. The chocolate cake was made by Louise.
3. The package was advertised by the travel agent.
4. The travel agent advertised the package.
5. The chain was broken by my brother.
6. My brother broke the chain on my bike.
7. I hemmed the prom dress.
8. The prom dress was hemmed by me.
9. The pencil on the floor was broken by him.
10. He broke the pencil on the floor.

Let's Practice

- **Directions: Change the sentences below to the active voice.**

1. The statue is being visited by hundreds of tourists every year.
2. My books were stolen by someone yesterday.
3. These books had been left in the classroom by a careless student.
4. Coffee is raised in many parts of Hawaii by plantation workers.
5. The house had been broken into by someone while the owners were on vacation.

Let's Practice

- **Directions: Change the sentences below to the passive voice.**
1. Children cannot open these bottles easily.
 2. The government built a road right outside her front door.
 3. Mr. Ross broke the antique vase as he walked through the store.
 4. When she arrived, the changes amazed her.
 5. The construction workers are making street repairs all month long.



▪ **Directions: Change the sentences below to the active voice.**

1. The statue is being visited by hundreds of tourists every year.
2. My books were stolen by someone yesterday.
3. These books had been left in the classroom by a careless student.
4. Coffee is raised in many parts of Hawaii by plantation workers.
5. The house had been broken into by someone while the owners were on vacation.

Homework: Rewrite the following paragraph in the active voice.

Last summer our house was painted by me. First, the exterior was washed using warm water and a mild detergent. Then all of the chinks in the walls were sealed with putty. After the putty had had a chance to dry, the exterior could be painted. A latex paint was used because it is easy to apply and cleans up with water. A whole week was needed to finish this part of the job. A color was used that was very close to the original color. When the job was finished, a great deal of satisfaction was felt by me. Even my dad said that a good job was done.