Sagan Academic Resource Center
OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

WRITING CENTER

Active Voice Vs. Passive Voice

Active voice is a grammatical structure in which the subject of the sentence performs the action of the verb, creating a direct and clear expression, such as "The cat ate the food."

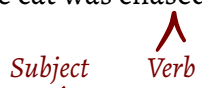
Passive voice occurs when the subject receives the action of the verb, often resulting in a more indirect construction, like "The food was eaten by the cat."

Using active voice makes your writing more engaging and dynamic. It helps create clear sentences that avoid wordiness.

How do you change from passive voice to active voice?

To change passive voice to active voice, identify the true subject (doer) and make it the focus of the sentence, followed by the verb and object.

In **passive voice**, the subject receives the action of the verb: "The cat was chased by the dog."



In **active voice**, the subject performs the action of the verb: "The dog chased the cat."

Active Voice: The subject performs the action.
Example: The researcher conducted the experiment.

Passive Voice: The subject receives the action.
Example: The experiment was conducted by the researcher.

Passive Voice: The essay was written by the student.
Active Voice: The student wrote the essay.

Passive Voice: Mistakes were made in the analysis.
Active Voice: The researcher made mistakes in the analysis.

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