

The passive voice emphasizes the person or thing receiving the action. The passive voice is useful when you do not know who performed the action or when you do not want to reveal the performer of the action.

EXAMPLE: These flowers **were left** on the doorstep sometime this afternoon. [The performer is unknown.]

"A large donation **was given** anonymously," said Mrs. Neal. [The speaker does not want to reveal the performer of the action.]

Y O U R T U R N !

Directions: Tell whether each verb in the following sentences is in **ACTIVE VOICE** or **PASSIVE VOICE**.

Example: *Jane's birthday dinner was paid for by his uncle.*
passive voice

1. Trees were being blown over by the wind.
2. The streetlights made long, wavy shadows on the sidewalk.
3. The cave was explored by the science class.
4. The Gettysburg Address was written by Abraham Lincoln.
5. Maxton considered the book an inspiration.
6. The cake had been eaten by the time Sandy arrived.
7. Kenny's fans cheered him on to victory.
8. The snow drifted over the fence and across the road.
9. The swelling on Kell's arm was caused by a bee sting.
10. Bob and Judy were setting out birdseed for the cardinals and the chickadees.
11. We were told about the contest by our favorite teacher.
12. Water leaked through the ceiling and into the pool below.
13. The gate to the factory was left open all weekend.
14. A crystal glass was set too close to the edge of the coffee table.
15. The silly puppy is chasing its tail again.