Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

WHO DID IT?

Shifting the spotlight with passive verbs

About 30 minutes Level ★★★☆☆



EXPLORER NOTES: ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

Explorers put the most important thing first. In the **active**, the doer comes first and does the action. In the **passive**, what had the action done to it comes first.

- Active: A student broke the greenhouse window.
- Passive: The greenhouse window was broken by a student.
- Build the passive with be, like is, was or were, plus a past participle, like broken or taken.
- Leave out by when the doer is unknown or the result matters more.



TASK A

/5

Underline each mistake and write the correction.

The passive is made with be plus a past participal, like wos brokun. In the **passive**, what had the action done to it comes first. Active sentences are usually longer than passive sentences. You can leave out the by-phrase when the doer is unknown. The book was heavy is a passive sentence.

There are 5 mistakes.

Mistake	Correction

DID YOU KNOW?

Science reports often use the **passive** to sound neutral. The samples were tested puts the **result** first, not the tester.

CHALLENGE TIME!

Can you spot one **passive** sentence on a label at school? Tell a partner what comes first.

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MATCH THE MEANINGS

Pair active ideas with passive ideas.

KEY WORDS

active voice: doer-first pattern

passive voice: event-first pattern

subject: doer word first in active

object: thing that has action done to it

past participle: verb form like broken or taken

by-phrase: by + doer that can be left out

TASK B

Match the cards to show the spotlight move.

✂ Cut out the cards.

active focus	**be + past participle**	was broken, were taken	**passive focus**
The books were collected by the teacher.	**by-phrase**	**A student broke the window.**	The window was broken by a student.
event comes first	by a student - can be left out	doer comes first	**The teacher collected the books.**

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WORD EXPLORER MAP

Explore what passive voice means and what it is not.

TASK C

/4

Complete the map for passive voice.

Definition (in my own words)

Characteristics

passive voice

Examples

The window was broken.

Non-examples

A student broke the window.

DID YOU KNOW?

Headlines can hide blame. The window was broken focuses on the **damage**, not who broke it.

CHALLENGE TIME!

Can you turn one not passive sentence into the **passive**? Say it to a partner.

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CHOOSE FAIR WORDS

Choose active or passive to be clear and fair.

TASK D

/5

Circle the correct word in each sentence.

1. 'A student broke the window' is (**passive** / **active**).
2. 'The window was broken' is (**active** / **passive**).
3. The books (**was** / **were**) collected by the teacher.
4. 'Glass is classified as a solid' puts the focus on the (**glass** / **scientists**).
5. Leave out by when the doer is (**important** / **unknown**) and the result matters.

TASK E

/4

Argue which headline is fairer with evidence.

Which headline is fairer: 'The class baked cakes' or 'Cakes were baked'?

P **Point**
I think that ...

E **Evidence**
For example, ...

E **Explain**
This shows that ...

L **Link**
Therefore, ...

HOW DID I DO?

Circle a face for each line.

I can spot active and passive by who comes first.

I can build a passive with be + past participle.

I can explain why I hid or showed the doer.

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Answer sheet: Who Did It?

Task A

1. past participal → past participle
2. wos → was
3. brokun → broken
4. usually longer → usually shorter
5. is a passive sentence → is not a passive sentence

Task B

A student broke the window. = The window was broken by a student.
The teacher collected the books. = The books were collected by the teacher.
be + past participle = was broken, were taken
by-phrase = by a student - can be left out
active focus = doer comes first
passive focus = event comes first

Task C

Definition: Sentence pattern where what had the action done to it comes first.
Characteristics: Built with be + past participle, Object becomes the new subject, Doer can move to a by-phrase or be left out
Examples: The window was broken. Glass is classified as a solid. Sugar and hot water are stirred.
Non-examples: A student broke the window. The book was heavy. The class baked cakes.

Task D

1. active
2. passive
3. were
4. glass
5. unknown

Task E

Example: I think that Cakes were baked is fairer when the cakes matter more. For example, it uses were + baked and leaves out the bakers. This shows the event comes first and sounds formal and neutral. Therefore, I would use active when the bakers matter and passive when the result matters.

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