



# G.D. GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SRINAGAR

**Subject: English**

**Aspect: Grammar**

**Topic: Active / Passive Voice**

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**Name:** .....

**Grade/Sec.: VII**.....

## **Active vs. Passive Voice**

Active voice **means that a sentence has a subject that acts upon its verb.**

Passive voice **means that a subject is a recipient of a verb's action.**

In English grammar, verbs have five properties: voice, mood, tense, person, and number; here, we are concerned with voice. The two grammatical voices are **active and passive**

**What's the difference between active and passive voice?**

### **Active voice**

When the subject of a sentence performs the verb's action, we say that the sentence is in the *active voice*. Sentences in the active voice have a strong, direct, and clear tone. Here are some short and straightforward examples of active voice.

### **Active voice examples**

Monkeys adore bananas.

The cashier counted the money.

The dog chased the squirrel.

All three sentences have a basic active voice construction: subject, verb, and object. The subject *monkey* performs the action described by *adore*. The subject *the cashier* performs the action described by *counted*. The subject *the dog* performs the action described by *chased*. The subjects are doing, doing, doing—they *take action* in their sentences. The active voice reminds us of the popular Nike slogan, “Just Do It.”

### **Passive voice**

A sentence is in the passive voice, on the other hand, when the subject is acted on by the verb. Passive voice is actually quite easy to detect. For these examples of passive voice, we will transform the three active sentences above to illustrate the difference.

### **Passive voice examples**

Bananas are adored by monkeys.

The money was counted by the cashier.

The squirrel was chased by the dog.

Let’s take a closer look at the first pair of sentences, “Monkeys adore bananas” and “Bananas are adored by monkeys.”

The active sentence consists of ***monkeys* (subject) + *adore* (verb) + *bananas* (object)**.

The passive sentence consists of ***bananas* (object) + *are adored* (a form of *to be* plus the past participle *adored*) + *by* (preposition) + *monkeys* (subject)**.

Making the sentence passive flipped the structure and necessitated the preposition ***by***. In fact, all three of the transformed sentences above required the addition of ***by***.

## **When to use active and passive voice**

Using the active voice conveys a strong, clear tone and the passive voice is subtler and weaker.

Tip: don't use the passive voice just because you think it sounds a bit fancier than the active voice.

That said, there are times the passive voice is useful and called for. Take "The squirrel was chased by the dog," for example. That sentence construction would be helpful if the squirrel were the focus of your writing and not the dog.

A good rule of thumb is to try to put the majority of your sentences in the active voice.