

Converting Active and Passive Voice

Name: _____

Though we generally want to write in Active Voice, certain situations will call for Passive. Below are some exercises to help you learn how to convert these to voices into each other.

Exercise Set A: Try converting some sentences from the typical Active Voice into Passive Voice. *You can leave the agent in these sentences since they'll make more sense that way.*

1. The evil man released the helpless puppies into the wild.

The helpless puppies were released into the wild by the evil man.

2. A storm terrified the two homeless puppies.

The two homeless puppies were terrified by a storm.

3. Fortunately, John saved the puppies from certain doom.

Fortunately, the puppies were saved by John from certain doom.

4. He gave them a loving home and nursed them back to health.

They were given a loving home and nursed back to health by John.

5. The fully grown puppies ate the evil man who had abandoned them.

The evil man who had abandoned them was eaten by the fully grown puppies.

Exercise Set B: Now try converting some “Rooftop Lab – Dimensional Analysis” type sentences from Active Voice into Passive Voice. This is what you’ll be doing a lot in your Rooftop Lab paper. *Try to leave the agent out of these sentences since these are scientific/mathematical sentences where the agent doesn’t matter!*

1. I measured the length of the south wall.

The length of the south wall was measured.

2. We then subtracted the area of the windows to give us the actual area of bricks.

The area of the windows was subtracted to find the actual area of bricks.

3. Since the height of the wall was too great for us to measure with our tape measure, we used sets of darker bricks that were in intervals on the wall.

Since the height of the wall was too great to measure with a tape measure, sets of darker bricks that were intervals on the wall were used.

4. First, we found the area of one of the smaller windows which was 45.96 feet.

First, the area of one of the smaller windows was found to be 45.96 feet.

5. We multiplied it by two to get 91.92 square feet for the two small windows.

It was multiplied by two to get 91.92 square feet for the two small windows.

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Exercise Set C: Let's reverse the process. For this exercise, convert the Passive Voice sentences into Active Voice. This is what you'll typically want to do in most other types of writing.

1. The homerun was hit by Jim Thome.

Jim Thome hit the homerun.

2. The presents were delivered by Santa.

Santa delivered the presents.

3. The homework was completed on time by Sarah.

Sarah completed the homework on time.

4. The Buckeyes were thoroughly dominated by USC.

USC thoroughly dominated the Buckeyes.

5. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. (a tricky one)

The founding fathers signed The Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Exercise Set D: Now let's do some reversals for our "Rooftop Lab" papers, just to make sure we understand the concept. In our actual papers, though, we'll want to try to stick with passive. *Note that all of these have the agent removed, so you'll have to provide that yourself.*

1. The conversion from square feet to square inches was completed.

We completed the conversion from square feet to square inches.

2. The height of the wall was multiplied by the length, giving a total area of 82.6 ft².

I multiplied the height of the wall by the length, giving a total area of 82.6 ft².

3. Next, the total area of bricks in square inches was converted to the number of bricks in the wall.

Next, our group converted the total area of bricks in square inches to the number of bricks in the wall.

4. The numbers were multiplied by each other in order to eliminate the unneeded units.

We multiplied the numbers by each other in order to eliminate the unneeded units.

5. Dimensional Analysis is used by landscapers and chefs.

Landscapers and chefs use Dimensional Analysis.

Exercise E: On a separate sheet of paper, write a 5-7 sentence paragraph describing something fun or interesting you've done recently in **Active Voice**. Then, rewrite that paragraph in **Passive Voice**. Finish by commenting on which one you like better and why. Attach that sheet to this worksheet when done.