



- I. Keys:** Fill in the following blanks with the appropriate term.
- When the doer is the subject, the sentence is in **active** voice.
  - When the receiver is the subject, the sentence is in **passive** voice.

**II. Verbs:** In the boxes, write verb/phrase, A (active), or P (passive). Only boxes are graded.

Verb/Verb Phrase	Label (A/P)	Sentence
was hurt	P	Ted was hurt by Julie's reaction to his song.
was pronounced	P	The play was pronounced a great success by the producer and the critics.
was bent	P	That tree was bent by last December's unexpected ice storm.
reached	A	Hot, tired and out of breath, Kim finally reached the top of the Statue of Liberty.

**III. Active or Passive:** In the correct boxes, write the doer, receiver, A (active), or P (passive). Only the boxes are graded. No doer/receiver? Put an X.

Doer	Receiver	Label (A/P)	Sentence
desk clerk	us	A	The desk clerk directed us to the hotel dining room.
?	note	P	The note was left in this bottle more than fifty years ago.
Simon	fence	A	Simon jumped the fence into the lilac bush.
?	Jill	P	After a long wait, Jill was admitted into the comedy club.

**IV. Re-Write:** Change sentences to **ACTIVE** voice. Change wording. Keep original info.

- We were enchanted by the sea's crashing waves.  
*The sea's crashing waves enchanted us.*
- A quick glance was sent my way by Tracy.  
*Tracy sent a quick glance my way.*
- Each and every one of those photographs was framed by Michael.  
*Michael framed each and every one of their photographs.*
- Clara was given a special gift by her aunt.  
*Clara's aunt gave her a special gift.*

## Active & Passive Voice Study Guide

**V. On Purpose:** Focus on the reasons why one would use ACTIVE voice OR why one would use PASSIVE voice on purpose.

- You found out that your best friend lied to you about something important. Your friend apologizes. Which sounds more genuine and sincere?
    - A. "I'm sorry you were hurt." **D V P**
    - B. "I'm sorry I hurt you." **P**
- Label the doer, verb, and receiver for your choice. **A**
- Is it in active or passive voice? **A**
- Explain why you chose A or B (why is it more appropriate for this situation).  
*taking responsibility for hurt feelings*

- In a press conference, the president is attempting to explain how his military decisions were wrong. He said, "It's true: Mistakes were made." Leaders of Congress were not satisfied with his explanation.
  - Label the doer, verb, and receiver for "Mistakes were made." **P V no doer**
  - Is it in active or passive voice? **P**
  - Explain why leaders of Congress were not satisfied with his explanation.  
*He is not taking the blame/responsibility*

17. Think of an original scenario where passive voice would be used on purpose when someone is speaking.

- Write 1-3 sentence explanation of the scenario.
- Then, write the 1 passive voice sentence your person says.
- Draw a picture of the scenario, emphasizing the reason why passive was used on purpose.

**Your Answers:**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example:**

**A** President Ray Watts apologizes for his mishandling of ending UAB's football program.

**B** "Our wonderful community has been divided and trust has been lost."

*It's yours*