

Bellringer

Week of: \_\_\_\_\_

Ten-Minute Grammar

DAY  
One  
MIN.

ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

In ACTIVE VOICE verb construction, the subject is the one doing the action; but in PASSIVE VOICE verb construction, the subject receives the action or has something done to him, her, or it.

In each example sentence, decide if the verb is ACTIVE or PASSIVE:

1. In an epic feline vs. canine battle, several cats were captured.
2. Their fellow felines decided to mount a rescue effort.
3. However, the dogs were warned of the cats' plans.
4. On both sides, preparations were made.
5. The night of the rescue mission arrived.
6. Five feline assassins entered the dogs' alley and started to wreak havoc.
7. The first wave of guard dogs was crushed viciously.
8. But then a platoon of rabid Dobermans was unleashed upon the cats.
9. A flurry of fur filled the air.
10. Finally, the animals agreed on a truce.
11. A treaty was signed by the leaders of the cats and the dogs.
12. The war ended, and the neighborhood returned to normal.

Wordplay - Just for fun!

➤ EIGHT BALL: Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

D C U B R E O S

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hr. \_\_\_\_\_

Ten-Minute Grammar

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ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

PASSIVE VOICE verb construction is a verb phrase that consists of a "be" verb and a past participle verb (usually ending in -ed or -en.)

In the following examples, REWRITE the sentence to change the underlined PASSIVE verb phrase into an ACTIVE verb:

1. Meat is eaten by carnivores.
2. Zookeepers were attacked by an escaped bear.
3. The first research project will be presented by Jane.
4. Mistakes were made.

Now try it the other way around—REWRITE these example sentences from The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer to change the underlined ACTIVE verb into a PASSIVE verb:

5. He felt a breeze as the door opened.
6. I found this place years ago when I first started working for El Patrón.
7. They spent the rest of the day exploring.

Wordplay - Just for fun!

➤ FOUR-LETTER WORDS: Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take *that* word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take *that* word and... You get the picture.

WORM

Ten-Minute Grammar

DAY  
Three  
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ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

In most situations, ACTIVE VOICE is preferred because it is more direct, less wordy, and less likely to be confusing.

In the following examples, choose the better sentence (circle A or B):

1. A. It was decided by my teacher that the quiz would be on Friday.  
B. My teacher decided that the quiz would be on Friday.
2. A. My friend invited me to come to her party.  
B. I was invited by my friend to come to her party.
3. A. The plan was fought against by both parents and teachers.  
B. Both parents and teachers fought against the plan.

PASSIVE VOICE is preferred when the person or thing doing the action is either unimportant or unknown or when you want to shift the focus away from the doer of the action for rhetorical purposes.

In the following examples, REWRITE the active sentence to be a passive sentence—focus on *what happened* and leave out *who did it*:

4. Doctors performed the first successful face transplant surgery in 2010.
5. Film studios release hundreds of movies every year.
6. Someone robbed three more local banks last night.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

➤ **DESCRAMBLER:** Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:

LDWI WINTS KCSUTR BOGYOED TOHUMUFL

Ten-Minute Grammar

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ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE

Read the following excerpt from The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer. Then answer the four questions below:

(a) You are like the old man. (b) I don't know much about this clone business—I was twelve the last time I darkened a schoolroom door—but I know you're a copy of him. (c) It's like the old vulture was being given a second chance.

1. What type of sentence is sentence (a)?
2. In sentence (a), is the main verb active or passive?
3. In sentence (b), is “was twelve” a passive voice verb phrase?
4. What is the passive voice verb phrase in sentence (c)?

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

El Patrón insists that u can be educated and live, as nearly as possible a normal life. the problem is that no private teacher wants too teach a clone And so the Alacrán's got an eejit—an person with an implant in his head.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

➤ **FIXER-ROOTER:** How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below?

JUSTIFIABLE JUST / IFY / ABLE  
(can be defended as just or right)