


Changing Passive Voice to Active Voice #1

In grammar, **voice** communicates whether the subject of a clause performs or receives the verb's action.

<p>If a sentence is written in active voice, the subject <i>performs</i> the action of the verb.</p>	<p><u>Millions of people</u> watched the baking show. <u>Subject</u> + verb performed by the subject + optional object</p>	
<p>If a sentence is written in passive voice, the subject <i>receives</i> the verb's action.</p>	<p><u>The baking show</u> was watched by millions of people. <u>Subject</u> + form of <i>to be</i> + past participle of verb + prepositional phrase</p>	

Though exceptions exist, it is best to use active voice in formal writing.

Rewrite the following sentences to use active voice instead of passive voice.

1. **PASSIVE:** My sister, Hadley, is confused by the instructions for the banana bread recipe.

ACTIVE: The instructions for the banana bread recipe confused my sister, Hadley.

2. **PASSIVE:** All apartment buildings are inspected by the city's health department.

ACTIVE: The city's health department inspects all apartment buildings.

3. **PASSIVE:** The first powered flight was completed by the Wright brothers in 1903.

ACTIVE: The Wright brothers completed the first powered flight in 1903.

4. **PASSIVE:** The log cabins are rented out by our scout group every summer.

ACTIVE: Our scout group rents out the log cabins every summer.

5. **PASSIVE:** The actors' outfits will all be designed by our lead costume designer.

ACTIVE: Our lead costume designer will design the actors' outfits.

6. **PASSIVE:** Penicillin, one of the first antibiotics, was discovered by Alexander Fleming.

ACTIVE: Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, one of the first antibiotics.

7. **PASSIVE:** The entire plate of tamales was gobbled up by Aiden and his friends.

ACTIVE: Aiden and his friends gobbled up the entire plate of tamales.