

USE VERB VOICE FOR EFFECT

The **voice** of a verb communicates whether the subject of a clause performs or receives the action of the verb. When choosing your verb voice, think about what you want to emphasize.

A sentence written in **active voice** emphasizes the actor. Active voice is often clearer and more concise than passive voice.

Ernesto painted the mural.

A sentence written in **passive voice** emphasizes the action. Passive voice can be helpful when the actor isn't known or isn't as important as the action itself.

The mural was painted in 2015.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence to emphasize the action or actor, based on what is specified below. Circle or highlight the verb or verb phrase that you change in each scenario. **Sample answers**

- The director will post the cast list for *The Secret Garden* near the auditorium on Thursday afternoon.
Action: The cast list for *The Secret Garden* will be posted near the auditorium on Thursday afternoon.
- Several books were recommended by Mrs. Esquivel for Crown Library's summer reading contest.
Actor: Mrs. Esquivel recommended several books for Crown Library's summer reading contest.
- Delegates crafted a new U.S. Constitution during the Constitutional Convention of 1787.
Action: A new U.S. Constitution was crafted during the Constitutional Convention of 1787.
- The banquet's incredible decor and confetti-filled balloons were donated by a local store in town, Party Perfection.
Actor: A local store in town, Party Perfection, donated the banquet's incredible decor and confetti-filled balloons.
- Grant Wood's iconic "American Gothic" painting depicts a stern-looking farmer and his wife in front of a house in southern Iowa.
Action: A stern-looking farmer and his wife in front of a house in southern Iowa are depicted in Grant Wood's iconic "American Gothic" painting.
- The informational meeting was attended by dozens of volunteers interested in hosting a fundraiser for the animal shelter.
Actor: Dozens of volunteers interested in hosting a fundraiser for the animal shelter attended the informational meeting.
- In 1923, Garrett Morgan patented the three-light traffic light, which added a "yield" component to the previously used two-light system.
Action: The three-light traffic light, which added a "yield" component to the previously used two-light system, was patented by Garrett Morgan in 1923.
- The "1812 Overture" was written by the Russian composer Tchaikovsky to commemorate Russia's defeat of Napoleon's armies in 1812.
Actor: Russian composer Tchaikovsky wrote the "1812 Overture" to commemorate Russia's defeat of Napoleon's armies in 1812.