

Teacher Notes

For a fun and challenging way to teach active / passive voice, don't tell your students anything about active / passive voice ahead of time!!

Option A: Simply cut out the 20 sentences below, tape them to the walls around the room, and tell the students to try to figure out what two categories those sentences could be put in. Let them get up, roam around the room, reading the sentences and discussing how they could categorize them. They'll most likely try to look at topics, main ideas, all kinds of things. Typically, they'll figure out enough to put them into the correct active/passive voice categories, but won't really know that it's called active / passive voice. Some might, though. Either way, it's a fun and challenging way to get them to read and think deeply.

Option B: Or you could print them out and make a set for each small group and have students work together to try to "beat" the other groups in coming up with the two correct categories, but of course you don't tell them what the categories are. Either way, you can prompt and guide as needed after a while if no one is getting close

Even if students don't use the terms "active" and "passive" in figuring out the categories, it still counts if they notice that the verbs are different, or the person doing the action is different, etc. The point is that they see the difference between active and passive voice—not that they somehow magically know the correct terms. You can tell them that part later.

The first 10 sentences below are active voice. The last 10 sentences are passive voice.

**The teacher gave an
assignment.**

**Many people visited
Disneyland.**

**The Yankees lost the
World Series.**

**The police captured
the thief.**

**The referee
stopped the game.**

**The pitch hit the
batter.**

**The teacher taught a
fun lesson.**

**The president
greeted the crowd.**

**The storm destroyed
all the homes.**

**I accidentally broke
the TV.**

**An assignment was
given by the teacher.**

**Disneyland is visited by
many people.**

**The World Series was
lost by the Yankees.**

**The thief was captured
by the police.**

**The game was stopped
by the referee.**

**The batter was hit by
the pitch.**

**A fun lesson was taught
by the teacher.**

**The crowd was
greeted by the
president.**

**All the homes were
destroyed by the
storm.**

**The TV got broken by
accident.**