



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Active and Passive Voice

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“My neighbor’s dog dug a hole.” “A hole was dug by my neighbor’s dog.” In these sentences, the same idea is expressed two different ways. The first is called the active voice. In the active voice, the subject performs the action of the verb. The second is called the passive voice. In the passive voice, the subject receives the action of the verb. Look at these examples:

**Active:** In *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, Mr. Earnshaw adopted Heathcliff.

**Passive:** In *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, Heathcliff was adopted by Mr. Earnshaw.

The active voice usually conveys a stronger writing style; wherever possible, choose the active voice when you write.

**PART I:** In the sentences below, place an *A* or *P* in the space provided to identify whether the verb is in the active or passive voice.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Hindley inherited *Wuthering Heights* after Mr. Earnshaw died.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Heathcliff was abused by Hindley.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Catherine was helped by Mr. Linton when she broke her leg.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Heathcliff greeted Catherine in dirty clothes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Nelly talked to Heathcliff about pride.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Applesauce was thrown at Edgar by Heathcliff.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Heathcliff was insulted by Catherine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Nelly warned Catherine not to marry Edgar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Heathcliff returned to *Wuthering Heights*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Isabella was humiliated by Catherine.

**PART II:** Change the following sentences from the passive to the active voice.

1. Heathcliff was insulted by Mr. Linton.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. A message was delivered to Catherine by Nelly.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Isabella was warned about Heathcliff’s dark side by Nelly.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. *Wuthering Heights* was sold to Heathcliff by Hindley.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. *Wuthering Heights* was haunted by Catherine’s ghost.

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