

Voice in Writing

There are two kinds of voice in writing. A sentence is in **active voice** when the subject of the sentence performs the action. A sentence is in **passive voice** when the subject doesn't perform the action, but is acted upon by something else.

ACTIVE VOICE: Jill rode the horse.
Jill is the actor. Jill is riding.



PASSIVE VOICE: The horse was ridden by Jill
The subject "horse" is not performing any action. Instead, Jill is acting upon the subject. Jill is still riding, but she is no longer the subject of the sentence.

DIRECTIONS: Change each of the following sentences from passive to active voice.

1. My neighbor was bitten by the big dog next door.
2. The lemonade was spilled when Sue jumped up from the table.
3. Our pancakes were served with powdered sugar instead of syrup.
4. Burgers were ordered by everyone except Pete.
5. Our tea was sipped from delicate China cups.
6. Ann was temporarily devastated by the flu.
7. The grass was not cut by my father because of the rain.
8. The field was lit by the harvest moon.
9. The raft was left on the shore by those boys.