

Active and Passive Voice

7th Grade

Who is doing the verb, and why hiding them is sometimes deliberate.

ACTIVE

- The subject does the action
- "The dog chased the ball."
- Shorter and clearer
- Says who is responsible
- Use it by default

PASSIVE

- The subject receives the action
- "The ball was chased by the dog."
- Longer, often vaguer
- Can hide who did it
- Use it when the doer is unknown or unimportant

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

"Mistakes were made" is passive precisely because it avoids saying who made them. That is a rhetorical choice, not an accident.

Passive is right in science writing — the method matters more than who performed it.