

Verbs, Active and Passive

As you follow along with the videos, use this handout to complete the activities.

Video 1 Model Sentences

- “The rabbits hurried noiselessly for cover.”
- “A stilted heron labored up into the air and pounded down river.”

— *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Video 1 Activity

In the space below, write a sentence with one of the following action verbs. Use any form of the verb.

throb	pace	snicker
chatter	drizzle	saturate
devour	ponder	scrub

Example: Mom drizzled the icing on the top of each cupcake.

Video 2 Model Passages

“The window frames in the front parlor leaked terrible during the storm. Rain soaked the drapes and rugs and left the wall plaster soft and spongy.”

— *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Rain was soaking the drapes and rugs and was leaving the wall plaster soft and spongy.

— Adapted from *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

The king and queen were facing each other and were beginning the steps. Their feet were mirroring each other and their left hands were clasping. Attolia’s right hand, which should have been holding the king’s left, was hanging down at her side.

— Adapted from *The King of Attolia* by Megan Whalen Turner

The king and queen faced each other and began the steps. Their feet mirrored each other and their left hands clasped. Attolia’s right hand, which should have been holding the king’s left, hung down at her side.

— Adapted from *The King of Attolia* by Megan Whalen Turner

Video 2 Activity

In the space below, write several sentences about a time when you or someone else was afraid. Try not to use verbs of being. Use action verb forms that can stand alone and “show,” rather than “tell,” what happened. Remember to be consistent and use the same tense in all your sentences.

Example:

As I stood at the bus stop, the wind drove me against the trash bin. My eyes blurred from its force. Something groaned and squeezed my ankle. I whirled around just as the bus screeched to a stop. I darted through the door to safety.

Video 3 Model Sentences

“The shade climbed up the hills toward the top.”

— *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

The hills were covered by shade.

— Adapted from *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

- Maya chose the purple shoes.
- The purple shoes were chosen by Maya.

— Teacher-created sentences

Video 3 Activity

Mark the sentences below as either active or passive. Remember to identify the subject to help you make your decision.

The worm is caught by the early bird. ___ Active ___ Passive

Time heals all wounds. ___ Active ___ Passive

The early bird catches the worm. ___ Active ___ Passive

All wounds are healed by time. ___ Active ___ Passive

Video 4 Model Sentences

- The jewels were stolen.
- I was born in Rhode Island.
- Rules are made to be broken.
- The prisoner will be executed at dawn.
- Tamales are prepared in corn husks.

Video 4 Activity

Determine whether each sentence below is written in the passive or active voice. If a sentence is in passive voice, rewrite it in active voice.

The Declaration of Independence was penned by Thomas Jefferson.

Her skin was pierced by the bullet.

The final episode of American Idol was watched by millions of people.