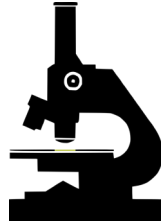


Active Voice

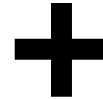
Researchers investigated the effects of artificial sweeteners over a five-year period (Johnson & Craft, 2013).



Subject



Action (Verb)



Direct Object

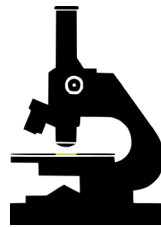
In active voice, the subject “doing” the verb comes at the beginning of the sentence.

Passive Voice

The effects of artificial sweeteners were investigated by researchers over a five-year period (Johnson & Craft, 2013).



Object



“To be” & past
participle



Subject

In passive voice, the subject “doing” the verb comes at the end of the sentence.

Active or Passive Voice?

Most of the time, use active voice because it provides more information in a more direct way, and it reduces wordiness. However, passive voice is sometimes useful:

1. Use passive voice when you want to emphasize what was done rather than who did it.

Active: *People registered nearly 5 million vehicles in Minnesota in 2010.*

Passive: *Nearly 5 million vehicles were registered in Minnesota in 2010.*

2. Use passive voice when the subject is unknown.

Passive: *A crime was committed yesterday afternoon.*