

Active or Passive Voice

Active Voice

In sentences written in active voice, the subject performs the action expressed in the verb; the subject acts

Example: The dog bit the boy

My mother bakes a cake

Passive Voice

In sentences written in passive voice, the subject receives the action expressed in the verb; the subject is acted upon. The agent performing the action may appear in a "by the . . ." phrase or may be omitted.

Example: The boy was bitten by the dog.

The cake was baked by my mother.

Practice:

Choose the best answer in the following sentences. Is it active or passive voice?

1. Everybody ____ by the terrible news yesterday.
a. shocked
b. was shocked
2. Mr. Green ____ at the University since 1989.
a. has been teaching
b. has been taught
3. Not much ____ about the accident since that time.
a. has said
b. has been said
4. A new book ____ by that company next year.
a. will publish
b. will be published
5. The secretary ____ to her new boss yesterday.
a. introduced
b. was introduce