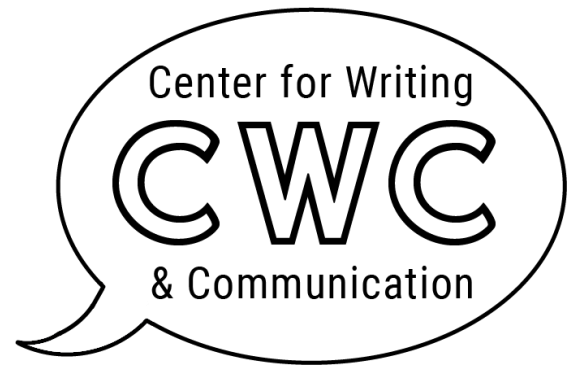


# Active and Passive Voice: What's the Difference?



- In active voice sentences the subject *does* the action.

*Example:* Liz played the piano.

- In passive voice sentences the subject *receives* the action.

*Example:* The piano was played by Liz.

- The sentence that uses the active voice is stronger, uses fewer words, and clearly shows who performs the action.
- The sentence that uses the passive voice is weaker and less direct. It is, however, not incorrect to use the passive voice.
- Sometimes the doer of the action is omitted in passive voice sentences.

*Example:* The piano was played.

- **Usefulness of Active Voice:**

- More concise; fewer words are needed
  - Emphasizes the doer of the action
  - Often more direct and dramatic

- **Usefulness of Passive Voice:**

- Focuses on the action
  - May be perceived as more objective when the writer does not want the action directly linked to the subject

*Example:* The business men would not make an agreement. - Active  
No agreement was made. - Passive