



ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE

The News Report

In the news, reporters often use the passive voice. This is a good time to use it because the person who did the action is not as important as the event itself.

Your Task: Read the sentences below. Change the passive sentence to the active voice. You might have to invent a "who" or a "they."

1. **Passive:** The bank **was robbed** last night.
 - Change to Active: A robber...
2. **Passive:** A new cure for the disease **was discovered**.
 - Change to Active: Scientists...
3. **Passive:** The World Cup **was won** by Spain in 2010.
 - Change to Active: Spain...
4. **Passive:** The fire **was started** by a cigarette.
 - Change to Active: A cigarette...

The Story Detective

Read the short story below. Find the sentences that use the **passive voice** and circle or underline them. Then, answer the questions that follow.

The Lost Treasure

A great mystery happened in the village. The old treasure map was discovered in a dusty book. The map was studied by two friends, who followed the path to the forest. A deep hole was dug under an old tree. The treasure was found, but it was stolen just a few hours later! The police were called immediately, and a search was started. They found the thief, and the treasure was returned to its owner.

Your Task: Be a Detective!

1. Find four sentences in the passive voice. Write them here:

- **Sentence A:** _____
- **Sentence B:** _____
- **Sentence C:** _____
- **Sentence D:** _____

2. Look at the passive sentences you found. Why do you think the writer used the passive voice in these sentences? Talk with your teacher about your ideas.

Teacher's Key

The News Report

1. **Passive:** The bank was robbed last night.
 - Change to Active: A robber robbed the bank last night.
2. **Passive:** A new cure for the disease was discovered.
 - Change to Active: Scientists discovered a new cure for the disease.
3. **Passive:** The World Cup was won by Spain in 2010.
 - Change to Active: Spain won the World Cup in 2010.
4. **Passive:** The fire was started by a cigarette.
 - Change to Active: A cigarette started the fire.

The Story Detective

The Lost Treasure

A great mystery **happened** in the village. The old treasure map **was discovered** in a dusty book. The map **was studied** by two friends, who **followed** the path to the forest. A deep hole **was dug** under an old tree. The treasure **was found**, but it **was stolen** just a few hours later! The police **were called** immediately, and a search **was started**. They **found** the thief, and the treasure **was returned** to its owner.

Passive Sentences

- The old treasure map **was discovered** in a dusty book.
- The map **was studied** by two friends...
- A deep hole **was dug** under an old tree.
- The treasure **was found**, but it **was stolen** just a few hours later!
- The police **were called** immediately...
- A search **was started**.
- ...and the treasure **was returned** to its owner.

Answers to Questions

1. Any four of the sentences listed above are correct.
2. The passive voice is used because the writer wants to focus on the **object** (the map, the hole, the treasure, the police) rather than the **subject** (the person doing the action).
For example, when the treasure **was stolen**, the identity of the thief is unknown at first, so the focus is on the action itself. The passive voice also helps to build a feeling of mystery and tension in the story.