


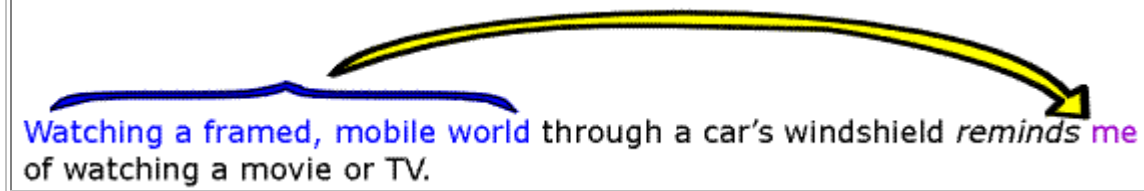


## Active Voice


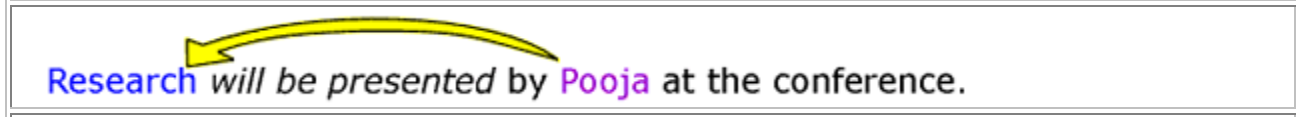
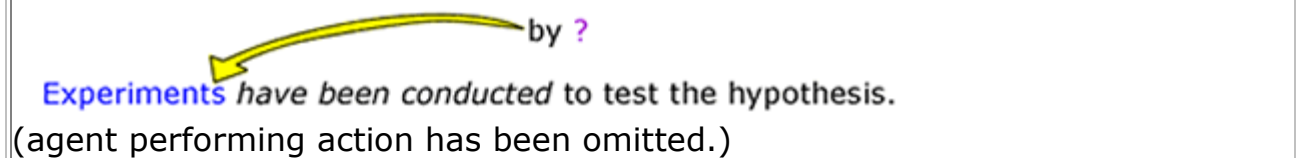
In sentences written in active voice, the subject performs the action expressed in the verb; the subject acts.

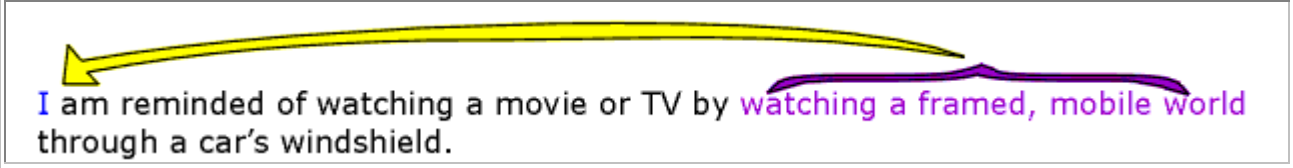
 <p>The dog <i>bit</i> the boy.</p>
 <p>Pooja <i>will present</i> her research at the conference.</p>
 <p>Scientists <i>have conducted</i> experiments to test the hypothesis.</p>
 <p>Watching a framed, mobile world through a car's windshield <i>reminds</i> me of watching a movie or TV.</p>

In each example above, the subject of the sentence performs the action expressed in the verb.

## 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.

 <p>The boy <i>was bitten</i> by the dog.</p>
 <p>Research <i>will be presented</i> by Pooja at the conference.</p>
 <p>Experiments <i>have been conducted</i> to test the hypothesis. (agent performing action has been omitted.)</p>



I am reminded of watching a movie or TV by watching a framed, mobile world through a car's windshield.

Sometimes the use of passive voice can create awkward sentences, as in the last example above. Also, overuse of passive voice throughout an essay can cause your prose to seem flat and uninteresting.

You can recognize passive-voice expressions because the verb phrase will always include a form of *be*, such as *am*, *is*, *was*, *were*, *are*, or *been*. The presence of a *be*-verb, however, does not necessarily mean that the sentence is in passive voice. Another way to recognize passive-voice sentences is that they may include a "by the..." phrase after the verb; the agent performing the action, if named, is the object of the preposition in this phrase.

### **Practice**

*Change the following passive-voice sentences into active voice.*

1. The donkey was poked by Tom with a stick.
2. When I was little, I was bossed around by my older cousins.
3. Corey was asked to take down the posters and hang up new ones.
4. Leslie was mentored by Julie, but Julie didn't know what she was doing.
5. To save time, the paper was written by Kristin on the computer.

6. Seeking to lay off workers without taking the blame, consultants were hired to break the bad news.

7. He tried to act cool when he slipped in the puddle of pudding in the Commons, but he was still laughed at by the other kids.

8. Many people found the pop from the fountain machine to be flat and tasteless, but it was ordered a lot anyway.

9. The committee's recommendation was vetoed by the CEO.

10. A fair resolution to the crisis is being sought.

11. Traces of ice on Mars have been discovered by scientists.

12. A successful liver transplant was performed by surgeons on Monday.

13. Police are being notified by dispatchers that three monkeys have escaped from the zoo.

14. The book is being read by most of the class.

15. Results of the research will be published next month.

16. A policy of whitewashing and cover-up has been pursued by the CIA Director and his assistants.

17. Mistakes were made.

18. An A+ was given to Martha by her teacher.

19. That child likes to be read to by her mother.

20. No one likes being lectured to by a supervisor.

21. The instructions have been changed by the teacher.

22. The car was manufactured by Toyota in Japan.

23. By 1920, 234 people had claimed to have been abducted by aliens.

24. The rumors must have been started by our competitors.

25. That car must have been set on fire on purpose.