

Are you ready to be aggressive about the passive? Find out by dragging & dropping these, correctly:  
1.

ACTIVE SENTENCE WORD ORDER:

\_\_\_\_\_

DRAG & DROP THESE:



PASSIVE SENTENCE WORD ORDER:

\_\_\_\_\_



***Do this before going ahead!***

**Let's get a few ideas straight, first...** CLICK on the pulldown menus, & CHOOSE the right ones...

2. ... for an active sentence.: .....

3. ... for a passive sentence.: .....

4. a) Try one more ACTIVE. Drag and drop these onto the right lines (one extra!):

bricks    In        it        by        built    1986    John    with



..... EXTRA: .....

b) Now try dragging and dropping these to create a PASSIVE sentence (one extra!):

bricks    In        it        does    by        built    1986    John    with    was

..... EXTRA: .....

5. What happens to the verb in the passive? CLICK & CHOOSE: .....

6. TICK the correct informal passive alternative for *to be* for actions that don't involve a long period of time, and/or the *subject* doesn't plan or do: ..... to go | ..... to get | ..... to do

7. Which is the right one? CLICK and CHOOSE: .....

8. In passive sentences, what happens to subjects of active sentences? CLICK and CHOOSE:

.....

Are you ready to be aggressive about the passive? Do this, and find out! – by S.K. Meyer

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9. TICK the correct answer: It is obligatory to indicate the doer in a passive sentence. .... TRUE | ..... FALSE

10. PASSIVE: DRAG and DROP these onto the correct lines. Watch out! There are extras and *at least* one sentence remains an active sentence. (N.B., *DROP lines want their content dropped on their far left.*)

a) employees    Red    given    the    Lucy    to    were    telephones    EXTRA: .....

.....



b) by    stones    policemen    James'    thrown    at    hooligans    were    Some    about    EXTRA: .....

.....

c) late    her    Cheryl    with    was    always    briefcase    arrived    open    EXTRA: .....

.....



d) called    Archer's    the    name    by    was    Mr.    clerk    down    EXTRA: .....

.....



e) wanted    manager    to    Everyone    was    be    the    Donna.    EXTRA: .....

.....



11. **THE TRAP.** Yes, there's a little trap in the passive. It's called the *statal passive*. Maybe you don't realize it, but you've been using it since almost your first English lessons! It LOOKS like a passive because it uses the verb *to be* & a past participle, BUT that past participle is NOT used as a verb. What is it? TICK:



..... an adverb | ..... an adjective describing a *state of being* | ..... an adjective describing a *state of business*

12. **FIGURING OUT THE TRAP.** TICK the correct answer:



- a. Mike's store was closed by the police, yesterday. "closed" is ..... STATAL PASSIVE | ..... PASSIVE  
b. Mike's store by the police was closed, yesterday. "closed" is ..... STATAL PASSIVE | ..... PASSIVE



12. While it's true that it's better to avoid the passive, there are times when it's desirable, and even necessary. When? TICK the right answer/s:

- a. .... to emphasize the action    b. .... to be polite    c. .... for lively writing  
d. .... to put the important new info at the end for emphasis    e. .... to be mean  
f. .... to be evasive about responsibility    g. .... to force talking about the doer

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