

What is passive voice?

"Voice" refers to the way the verb is used in the sentence. Recall that a sentence has to have a **subject** and a **verb**, and many verbs require **direct objects**. Here's an example of active voice:

"Purdue Pete hit the baseball."

subject	verb	direct object
Purdue Pete	hit	the baseball.
<i>doer</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>receives action</i>

In passive voice, the subject of the sentence also receives the action. The doer of the action is someone else. Here's an example of passive voice:

"The baseball is hit by Purdue Pete."

subject	verb	
The baseball	is hit	by Purdue Pete.
<i>receives action</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>who did the action</i>

Why do we use passive voice in lab reports?

The scientific point of view requires us to observe and record as objectively as possible. We avoid personal bias by removing ourselves. For example, do not write "I placed masses into the cup." Instead, write "The masses were placed into the cup."

Using the passive voice also clarifies procedures and descriptions so they can be easily reproduced and compared. For example, do not write, "Heat the solution until it boils." Instead, write "The solution was heated to boiling."

Passive voice detector - with the aid of zombies!

Use datayze's [passive voice detector](#) to see if a sentence is in passive voice.

Note that it will display your sentence(s) if it is written in passive and not display if is written in active voice.