

Passive Voice Exercises

Practicing I

Read the paired sentences aloud. Write "A" in the blank beside the sentence in the active voice, "P" in the blank beside the sentence in the passive voice.

- a. _____ Louise made the coffee.
- b. _____ The coffee was made by Louise.
- c. _____ The package was advertised by the travel agent.
- d. _____ The travel agent advertised the package.

Practicing II

Rewrite these sentences to put them in the active voice.

- a. The sugar water was relished by the hummingbirds.

- b. Jogging is done by many people for exercise.

- c. A standing ovation was given to the guitar player.

- d. The syllabus was handed out by the professor.

Practicing III

Using either a computer or a piece of scratch paper, rewrite the following paragraph in the active voice.

Last summer our house was painted by me. The job took about two weeks. First, the exterior was washed using warm water and a mild detergent. Then all the chinks and pores in the walls were sealed with putty. After the putty had had a chance to dry, the exterior could be painted. A latex paint was used because it is easy to apply and cleans up with water. A whole week was needed to finish this part of the job. I was very careful to apply the paint evenly because I did not want to have to apply two coats. A color was used that was very close to the original color. Our house is a two-story house, which meant that a tall ladder was needed to do the second story. The paint can had to be balanced on the top rung of the ladder while I worked. When the job was finished, a great deal of satisfaction was felt by me. I had to pat myself on the back. Even my dad said that a good job was done.