

In sentences using the active voice, the subject of the sentence does the action. In sentences using the passive voice, the object of the sentence does the action.

Consider the following examples.

PASSIVE: The fly ball was caught by Hernando.

ACTIVE: Hernando caught the fly ball.

PASSIVE: The coolant pumps were destroyed by a surge of power.

ACTIVE: A surge of power destroyed the coolant pumps.

When the object of the sentence does the action instead of the subject, the subject is weakened. Active sentences are more emphatic and vigorous, although there are instances in which the passive voice may be preferred.