**Active and Passive Voice**

**Post-Class Activities**

These post-class activities have been designed to give you further practice in spotting sentences written in the active and passive voices, writing in the different styles of voice, and choosing the style appropriately depending on the content of your writing.

**Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (1 mark each, 5 marks total)**

For these questions, read each sentence below and decide whether it is:

1. Written in the active voice first and the passive voice second
2. Written in the passive voice first and the active voice second
3. Written in the active voice only
4. Written in the passive voice only.

**Question 1** (**1 mark)**

Lucy convinced her brother to take the survey she developed for statistics, but she was later informed by her professor that such a move is a type of bias.

**Question 2** (**1 mark)**

Mother lions carry their cubs from place to place before they walk and run everywhere on their own.

**Question 3** (**1 mark)**

Frogs are considered to be indicator species by scientists, as their relative presence or absence indicates the health of the particular ecosystem.

**Question 4** (**1 mark)**

Sediments are formed by the weathering of rocks, precipitation reactions, or other biological processes.

**Question 5 (1 mark)**

Meteorites that hit the Earth cause impact craters that are approximately ten times larger than the diameter of the meteorite.

**Questions 6 and 7 (2 marks each, 4 marks total)**

Study the sentences below, which are written in either the passive or active voice. Your task for these questions is to decide which voice is more effective for the given topic. Copy your answer (1 mark) and justify (in a few words) why you chose this sentence (1 mark). *Hint: Choose one of the two sentences for each question and state whether it is active or passive, before saying why you think it is more suitable than the other version.*

**Question 6 (2 marks)**

**A.** The Human Genome project was completed in 2003, two years ahead of schedule.

**B.** Many international organizations worked together to complete the Human Genome Project in 2003, two years ahead of schedule.

**Question 7 (2 marks)**

**A.** An unknown group of individuals dumped hundreds of pollutants in the river over the weekend, which is a concern for wildlife biologists.

**B.** Hundreds of pollutants were dumped into the river over the weekend, which is a concern for wildlife biologists.

**Questions 8, 9, and 10 (2 marks each, 6 marks total)**

Read the three active voice sentences below. Now re-write each one in the passive voice (1 mark) but try hard to use fewer words than in the original sentences without losing **important/necessary detail** (1 mark).This will give you practice in writing concisely even when you have to use the passive voice. For each answer, simply include your re-written statement and the word count. *Hint: In reality, you may not want to write these sentences in the passive voice, as they may be more appropriate in the active voice. However, as in the pre-class activities, this question will give you practice in re-writing sentences in the opposite style of voice, which is an important skill to master.*

**Question 8 (2 marks)**

Animals sometimes alter their natural behaviour when researchers tag them with monitoring equipment because the equipment often increases drag.

***Hint: Try to use fewer than 19 words.***

**Question 9 (2 marks)**

Tagged research equipment causes even more drag for juvenile animals, as compared to adults. ***Hint: Try to use fewer than 14 words.***

**Question 10 (2 marks)**

Research equipment will collect more realistic data when researchers select tags that have the least impact on the target organism. ***Hint: Try to use fewer than 20 words.***

**Question 11, 12, and 13 (2 marks each, 6 marks total)**

These questions have been designed to give you practice in:

(1) Reducing the length of passive voice sentences to make them more concise

(2) Changing them to active voice sentences to further reduce the word count.

To begin, read the passive voice sentences below and try to remove any unnecessary words from them while keeping them in the passive voice (1 mark each). *Hint: Simply remove words at this stage, rather than re-writing sentences.* Then try to re-write these sentences in the active voice (1 mark each).

**Question 11 (2 marks)**

A waterproof, photo-luminescent material, which was designed by researchers as a glow-in-the-dark coating for roads, has been created by a UK-based company.

**Question 12 (2 marks)**

During the day, light is absorbed by the material resulting in a glow to be emitted from the material at night.

**Question 13 (2 marks)**

In addition to making roads safer at night, it is thought by the company, as well as current consumers, that the coating could provide enough light so that street lamps could be removed to save money and energy.

**Question 14 (4 marks)**

Choose a topic in science that you are very interested in and write a paragraph about it, incorporating **three or four** sentences. Note that you do not need to write a long answer (less than 150 words will be fine), but make sure you write at least one sentence in the active voice and at least one in the passive voice. Try to make sure you choose the style of voice to be appropriate for each sentence though!

This activity is designed to give you practice in moving interchangeably between the active and passive voice in sentences in the same paragraph, and to make you think more about the circumstances in which it isappropriate to use each style.