**Active/Passive Voice**

**Class Notes/Practice**

**•** In active voice sentences the subject ***does*** the action. (Located in subject.)

***Example:*** Liz played the piano. [Who or what played? Liz]

\*Commands are active voice sentences.

***Example:*** Clear the table. [Who or what cleared the table? (You)]

**•** In passive voice sentences the subject ***receives*** the action. (Located in predicate.)

***Example:*** The piano was played by Liz. [Who or what played? Liz]

- The sentence that uses the active voice is stronger, uses fewer words, and clearly shows who performs the action.

- The sentence that uses the passive voice is weaker and less direct. It is, however, not incorrect to use the passive voice.

**•** Sometimes the doer of the action is omitted in passive voice sentences.

***Example:*** The piano was played. [Who or what played? (unknown?)]

**Directions:** Decide whether the following sentences are written in the active or passive voice. Then write the doer of the action on the line to the right. If the doer is unknown, write a question mark (?).

***1))*** Thomas feeds his dog. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***2))*** The dog is fed by Thomas. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***3))*** The family went to the beach. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***4))*** The letter was written by Marshall. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***5))*** The game had been won by the blue team. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***6))*** The problem was solved. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***7))*** The stunt man risked his life. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***8)*** The fire was extinguished. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***9))*** The car was being cleaned by its owner. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***10))*** It gets cold here during the winter. active / passive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

