

Complements: Active versus Passive Noun Complements

FORM:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACTIVE | Agent + Receiver + Noun Complement |
| PASSIVE | Receiver + Noun Complement (+ Agent) |

USE:

In **active sentences**, the agent appears first and more emphasis is placed on the “doer” of the action.

In **passive sentences**, the receiver appears first and there is more emphasis on the action. As with other passive sentences, the agent can be omitted if it is unknown, understood or unimportant.

EXAMPLES:

| Agent | Receiver | Complement |
|---|----------|------------|
| <i>The judges named the Canadian skater champion.</i> | | |

| Receiver | Complement | Agent |
|--|------------|-------|
| <i>The Canadian skater was named champion (by) the judges.</i> | | |

Change the following sentences with **NOUN COMPLEMENTS** from passive to active, using the “agent” provided.

1. Jane is considered an excellent teacher (by the principal).

2. Their new baby was named Ella (by the parents).

3. A young woman was announced the new president today (by the Board of Directors).

4. Niagara Falls is called the Honeymoon Capital of the World (by the travel industry).

5. The Northern Lights are called Aurora Borealis (by scientists).
