

ac·tive¹

S2 W2

/ˈæktɪv/

adjective

1 **chemical** **busy** HEALTHY always busy doing things, especially physical or mental activities

OPP

games for active youngsters

She's over 80, but is still very active.

active life/lifestyle

My father always led a very active life.

active mind/imagination

a child with a very active imagination

2 **involved** TAKE PART/BE INVOLVED involved in an organization or activity and doing lots of practical things to achieve your aims:

*He became **politically active** at college.*

be active in (doing) something

The Bureau is active in promoting overseas investment.

take/play an active part/role in something

Encourage students to take an active part in discussions.

*She **took an active interest** in local charities.*

active participation/involvement

the importance of active participation by elderly people in the life of the community

*We're **taking active steps** (= doing practical things) to deal with the problem.*

*We maintain **active links** with other European universities.*

active member/supporter

He is an active member of the Labour Party.

3 **functioning** operating in a way that is normal or expected

OPP

The virus is active even at low temperatures.

4 **doing something** doing something regularly:

sexually active teenagers

5 **volcano** an active VOLCANO is likely to explode at any time:

*The **volcano** became **active** last year with a series of eruptions.*

6 **grammar** an active verb or sentence has the person or thing doing the action as its SUBJECT. In 'The boy kicked the ball', the verb 'kick' is active

→ PASSIVE¹ (2)

7 producing a chemical reaction:

*nicotine, the **active ingredient** in tobacco*

— **actively** adv:

*Carol was **actively involved in** the local sports club.*

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 1

nouns

an active life *He lived a full and active life.*

an active lifestyle *Studies show that an active lifestyle can reduce your chance of developing heart disease.*

an active mind (= when someone is able to think quickly and clearly) *A fit body is crucial if you want an active mind.*

an active imagination (= when someone is able to form pictures or ideas easily) *Some of the children have an overactive*

imagination.

verbs

keep/ remain active *We try to keep the patients active by taking them for a daily walk.*

adverbs

physically active *You need to become more physically active and eat less.*

highly/ intensely active *an intensely active child*

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2

nouns

an active role *Most men play a less active role in family life than women.*

an active part *Our members take an active part in fund-raising.*

an active member *She became an active member of the Geological Society.*

an active interest *As a teenager he began to take an active interest in politics.*

active participation/ involvement (= in an activity or event) *Active participation in community life is important in small towns and villages. |*

The school encourages the active involvement of parents.

an active participant *The student must be an active participant in the learning process.*

active support (= encouragement or help) *He wrote the book with the active support of his wife, Pam.*

an active supporter *The company is an active supporter of animal rights groups.*

phrases

play an active role in something *Do you play an active role in your community?*

take an active part in something *Most of the students take an active part in sports.*

take active steps to do something *You should take active steps towards reducing stress.*

take an active interest in something *Not many young people take an active interest in gardening.*

adverbs

politically active *As a student, he was politically active.*

economically active *The proportion of men aged 65–69 who are economically active has decreased.*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Latin

Origin: *activus*, from *agere*; → [ACT](#)¹

active²

noun

the active

the active form of a verb, for example ‘destroyed’ in the sentence ‘Enemy planes destroyed the village.’

→ [PASSIVE](#)²

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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