

Excerpt of Passive Voice Instructional Material

English for Art Purposes
Academy of Art University

Background:

These materials were designed for English as a second language (ESL) university art & design students who are enrolled in an intermediate English for Art Purposes course. By the end of this module, students should

- understand how the passive voice is used when discussing art.
- construct the passive voice within simple sentences about art.

Designed by Keith Anderson

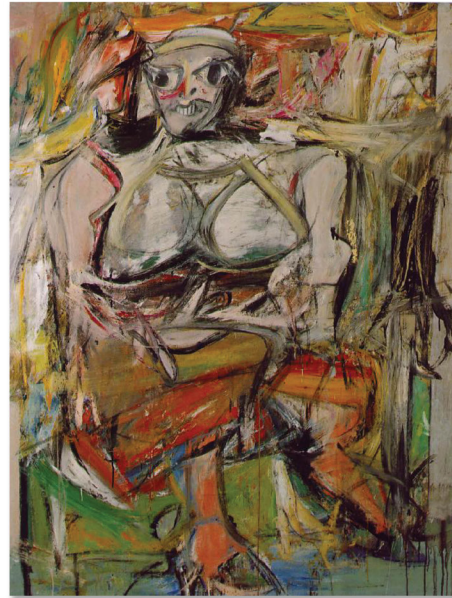
“Where education meets design.”

Activating Prior Knowledge

The purpose of this page is to bridge the students' background knowledge to the subject matter of the lesson: the passive voice. This also provides a nice frame to the lesson with interesting content.

Pre-Assessment

Before learning the details of the passive voice structure, this pre-assessment allows the students to see how much of the content they already know and preview what the lesson will focus on.



Woman I

Willem de Kooning

Woman I was painted from 1950 to 1952 by the Dutch-born American artist, Willem de Kooning, 1904-1997. This was created with oil on canvas, and is 76 inches high by 58 inches wide, 193 x 147 cm.

Woman I is a tall, rectangular painting, which is dominated by the powerful and fearless woman. Big and curvy with huge shoulders, she fills the canvas from top to bottom. Her teeth are shown in a rigid and wide smile, and her open eyes are so big they take up 1/3 of her face.

The whole canvas is painted in great, large strokes of colorful paint. Yellows, orange-reds, greens - the bold colors from a child's paintbox - combine with the thick dominant greys and whites, smudged on the canvas with apparent abandon. The color has been painted on several times. In some places, the paint has dried in long marks down the canvas.

What do you know?

Directions: Match the questions and answers.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Who painted the 'Woman I'? | a. Many colorful paints were used with grays, whites and blacks. |
| 2. What type of colors did Willem de Kooning use? | b. Oil on canvas was used to create this painting. What is the main focus of the painting? |
| 3. What is the main focus of the painting? | c. It was painted by the artist, Willem de Kooning. |
| 4. What material was used to create this painting? | d. The heavy, strong woman is shown as the focus of the painting. |

Description

This page includes a description of the differences between the active and passive voices in English. This serves as the instructional part of the materials.

ACTIVE VOICE

We usually write sentences in the active voice. These are sentences that focus on the subject of the sentence. In other words, these sentences focus on who or what is doing the action.

subject verb object
Willem de Koonig **painted** Woman I in 1952.
In this sentence, the focus is the painter, Willem de Koonig. Woman I is not as important as the painter.

PASSIVE VOICE

With the passive voice, we care about the object of the sentence. In other words, passive voice clauses focus on objects that the subject does something to.

subject verb object
Woman I **was painted** by Willem de Koonig in 1952.
In this sentence, the focus is the painting, Woman I. The painter is not the focus, and in fact, doesn't even need to be included.

Guernica

Pablo Picasso



Practice

Directions: Write the sentences below in the passive voice

Active: Pablo Picasso painted Guernica in 1937.

Passive: _____

Active: The painting uses a palette of grey, black and white.

Passive: _____

Active: This painting shows the bombing of Guernica, Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

Passive: _____

Active: The painting shows the suffering of people, animals, and buildings in Guernica.

Passive: _____

Active: Picasso finished Guernica in early June 1937.

Passive: _____

Controlled Practice

This activity helps the students practice forming the passive voice in a controlled environment.



Starry Night

Vincent Van Gogh

Painted: 1889

Location: Museum of Modern Art in New York

Colors: shades of blue, yellow and black

Subject: the small town of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

Foreground: cypress tree

Midground: houses and church of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

Background: clouds and stars

Writing

Directions: write a paragraph about Starry Night using the passive voice and the facts above.

[illegible]

Assessment Activity

This activity allows the students to demonstrate their abilities to use the passive voice in writing.

Evaluation

This rubric is designed to evaluate the student's ability to use the passive voice in the written passage on the previous page.

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Structure	Consistently and accurately produces the passive voice structure in almost all sentences.	Uses the passive voice structure correctly in most sentences, but makes 1-3 mistakes	Does not correctly use the passive voice structure in most sentences. Makes more mistakes than not.
Usage	Correctly knows when to use the active and passive voices within sentences.	Mostly knows when to use the active and passive voices within sentences, but makes 1-2 mistakes.	Incorrectly uses the passive and active voices throughout their sentences.
Vocabulary	consistently uses words that are properly marked as a subject and an object.	uses words that are usually marked as a subject and an object.	does not use words that are marked as a subject and an object.