

Exercise Nine: Changing Verbs from Passive to Active

Sentences written in the passive voice tend to be longer and it is less clear who is performing the action.

Example:

Passive: The pole was struck by lightning.

Active: Lightning struck the pole.

Convert the following sentences from passive to active voice:

1. The effects of an opioid overdose can be reversed by Naloxone.

2. Today in a speech to the Union of BC Municipalities, a new program was announced by the premier.

3. The citizens of B.C. are served by B.C.'s elected leaders and public servants.

4. One type of air pollution is caused by hydrocarbons.

5. The dividends of a strong and diversified economy and prudent fiscal management are delivered by British Columbia's fifth-consecutive balanced budget.

6. It was decided by the court that the contract was unconstitutional.

7. The kayak was invented by Indigenous people for transportation and fishing.

8. The original trusses and the repair were designed by the same registered professional.

9. The tax applies even if the insurance was purchased by a non-resident on your behalf.

10. Today's blog was written by staff working on elder abuse prevention.

Takeaways/answers on next page.

Exercise Nine Takeaways

There are many possible answers to these exercises - here are some sample revisions:

1. Naloxone can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.
2. Today in a speech to the Union of BC Municipalities, the premier announced a new program.
3. B.C.'s elected leaders and public servants serve the citizens of B.C.
4. Hydrocarbons cause one type of air pollution.
5. British Columbia's fifth-consecutive balanced budget delivers the dividends of a strong and diversified economy and prudent fiscal management.
6. The court decided that the contract was unconstitutional.
7. Indigenous people invented the kayak for transportation and fishing.
8. The same registered professional designed the original trusses and the repair.
9. The tax applies even if a non-resident purchased the insurance on your behalf.
10. Staff working on elder abuse prevention wrote today's blog.

Note that there are cases when the passive voice is appropriate, but the active voice tends to be stronger and more direct and therefore contributes to clearer, simpler writing.

Now put your active voice conversion skills to the test by editing your response to [Exercise Five](#). Change the general description of artichoke preparing and eating into a set of instructions.