



Active and Passive Voice in Creative Writing

April 8, 2026

1. **Why do you think “use the active voice” is both excellent advice *and* frequently misunderstood?**
2. **In structural terms, what is the difference between active and passive voice—and what’s a quick way to spot passive voice?**
3. **How does the “zombie test” work, and what does it reveal about why passive voice can feel sluggish?**
4. **The article claims passive voice increases “cognitive friction” for readers. Where have you felt that friction in real reading experiences?**
5. **How does voice choice affect character agency in fiction—and why might readers “stop caring” if passive voice dominates?**
6. **Walk through the article’s three-step method for fixing a passive sentence. What step is most important, and why?**
7. **When is passive voice the *smarter* choice? Identify at least two situations from the text and explain the purpose.**