

# Read and Discover

## Active Voice and Passive Voice

### Lesson 18

Earth's mountains were created by plate tectonics. \_\_\_\_\_

Plate tectonics created the earth's mountains. \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the simple subject in each sentence. Write *X* by the sentence in which the subject does something. Write *O* by the sentence in which something is done to the subject.

If the subject performs an action, the verb is said to be in the **active voice**. (*Plate tectonics created.*) If the subject is acted upon by something else, the verb is said to be in the **passive voice**. (*Mountains were created.*) Many sentences in the passive voice have a prepositional phrase that begins with the word *by* and follows the verb.

See Handbook Sections 18g, 20

### Part 1

Circle the simple subject in each sentence. Draw a box around the simple predicate. Be sure to include helping verbs. Write *A* if the verb is in the active voice. Write *P* if it is in the passive voice.

1. *Plate tectonics* refers to the movement of chunks of the earth's crust. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The earth's plates constantly are moving into, away from, or against each other. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The land is reshaped drastically at the plates' boundaries. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Many of the earth's mountains were formed by the force of plate movements. \_\_\_\_\_
5. These movements can push rocks upward. \_\_\_\_\_
6. A plate also can slide beneath a neighboring plate. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The top plate can be pushed upward to a great height by the bottom plate. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Plates also can compress and expand. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The process of compression and expansion creates breaks, or faults, in the rock layers. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Mountain ranges can be formed by faults in the middle of plates, far from their colliding edges. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Parts of the Rocky Mountains were created by compression folds and faults. \_\_\_\_\_
12. In the southwest United States, the earth's crust has been stretched by the movement of plates. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Because of this extension, the Basin and Range region is covered by fault-block mountains. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The stretching crust broke the rocky plates into pieces. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Downward-sliding chunks formed valleys. \_\_\_\_\_
16. The steep sides of the remaining rocks stood as mountain ranges. \_\_\_\_\_
17. The process of extension has been forming these rugged features since the Miocene epoch 25 million years ago. \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2

Look again at each sentence in Part 1 that has a verb in the passive voice. Rewrite each sentence so the verb is in the active voice.

- 18. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 19. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 20. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 21. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 22. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 23. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 24. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Part 3

The active voice communicates action briefly and powerfully. Some writers believe that the passive voice should be used only when an action is done by an unknown or unimportant agent—for example, *The ridge had eroded.*

Read the passage below. Notice that all of the sentences are in strong active voice. Then underline each verb in the active voice. (25–26)

At transform plate boundaries, plates grind past each other side by side. This type of boundary separates the North American plate from the Pacific plate along the San Andreas fault, a famous transform plate boundary that is responsible for many of California's earthquakes.

Look over a story or a report you have written recently. Find a sentence with a verb in the passive voice. Rewrite it below so the verb is in the active voice.

- 27. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_