Who's kicking who? The ACTIVE Voice

Sentences with subjects that act contain **active verbs**. When the subject is acted upon, the sentences use a **passive verb**.

**Active:** Billy kicked Tommy in the shins.

**Passive:** Tommy was kicked in the shins by Billy.

- Where is the focus in each of the above sentences? Which sentence is stronger?

The **active voice** stresses **characters** who are doing the **action**. The **characters** are the **subjects** of the sentence.

The **passive voice** stresses the **receiver** of the action, or the **direct object**. The **characters** who are doing the action are in the background.

The **passive voice** uses forms of the verb "be":
Be, am, is, are was, were, being, been

- The **active voice** is a stronger, more direct form of writing. Use the **active voice** whenever possible.

**To change the voice from passive to active:**
1. Take the object of the preposition in the "by" phrase or create a **character** who is doing the **action** and make the **character** the **subject** of the sentence.
2. Transfer the **subject** of the passive voice sentence to the **object** position.
3. Drop the form of "be" and convert the **verb** to an **active** form.

Examples:

**Passive:** The house was sold by the realtor.

**Active:**