

Passive Voice Exercise:

Chris Renalds, a Carson-Newman student, wrote a tongue-in-cheek paragraph completely in passive voice. We have reproduced it below with minor alterations. Convert the paragraph to active voice for practice.

The room was entered by Dr. Wheeler, at which point words of advice regarding active verbs were spoken by him. It was decided by the rebellious class that the final paper of the semester would be written entirely in passive voice. Remarks were made by a distraught Wheeler; protests were made by the students. A seat was gotten out of by one student. His desk was stood upon by him, and a vow was made by him that he would never write another active sentence. He was challenged to a duel. Blood was shed. Butts were kicked. Lives were lost. Shrieks could be heard. The halls of Henderson were run down by people who were concerned. When the room was entered by them, carnage was seen by them. When Wheeler was found standing over the bodies, only these words were spoken by him: "Mistakes were made."¹

¹ Dr. Andy Hazucha donated the original version of this passive voice exercise to the English Department at Carson-Newman College.