

## I. PASSIVE VOICE LESSON

PV happens when a writer or speaker makes the object of the action the subject of the sentence. In some cases, the agent of the sentence is erased. This can lead to awkward or wordy sentences.

*The skunk was eaten by a bear.*

*It has been said that fast food is unhealthy.*

To correct it, define the subject and change the verb form. In passive voice, verbs sometime contain a form of the verb “to be” (be, been, being, is, am, were, are). You will remove the “to be” verbs to make the voice active.

*A bear ate the skunk.*

*Citizens and health organizations have said that fast food is unhealthy.*

Sometimes in passive voice, the subject of the action appears later in the sentence in a prepositional phrase.

*English class is often thought to be boring by the students.*

To correct this, make the object of the preposition the subject of the sentence and remove the “to be” verb.

*The students often think that English class is boring.*

## II. DANGLING PREPOSITION LESSON

Prepositions should never come at the end of a sentence or clause.

Examples:

Dangling: The idea I am thinking of is particularly good.

Revised: The idea of which I am thinking is particularly good.

Ideal (Active): I am thinking of a particularly good idea.

The following is a list of the most common prepositions:

- \* about
- \* across
- \* against
- \* amid
- \* around
- \* before
- \* below
- \* beside
- \* between
- \* by
- \* down
- \* above
- \* after
- \* along
- \* among
- \* at
- \* behind
- \* beneath
- \* besides
- \* beyond
- \* concerning
- \* during

- \* except      \* for
- \* from        \* in
- \* into        \* like
- \* of          \* off
- \* on          \* over
- \* past        \* since
- \* through    \* throughout
- \* to          \* toward(s)
- \* under      \* underneath
- \* until      \* unto
- \* up         \* upon
- \* with        \* within
- \* without

### **III. EXERCISE**

Correct the instances of passive voice and dangling prepositions in the following paragraph:

I often try to remember what I was thinking about when the US first invaded Iraq. I was only 12 years old at the time, but things were said by the media that made me angry. I remember many bombs were dropped on Baghdad. I always wondered what the bombs fell on. Did they hit government buildings, or people's homes, schools, and workplaces? Since the media was not reporting on Iraqi civilians, I didn't know what I was looking at on TV.