The active voice promotes simple, straightforward writing. As such, most scientific journals encourage the use of the active voice over the passive voice.

- **Active voice** – the subject acts.
- **Passive voice** – the subject is acted upon.

### Present tense

- **Active:** Vitamin A increases the risk of hair loss.
- **Passive:** The risk of hair loss is increased by vitamin A.
- **Active:** Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from industries and vehicle exhausts can induce a series of environmental problems, including photochemical smog, broken ozonosphere, and environmental pollution.
- **Passive:** A series of environmental problems, including photochemical smog, broken ozonosphere, and environmental pollution, can be induced by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from industries and vehicle exhausts.

### Present perfect

- **Active:** Previous studies have used comparative analyses of ORF2 sequences to elucidate phylogenetic relationships among different FCV isolates.
- **Passive:** Comparative analyses of ORF2 sequences have been used in previous studies to elucidate phylogenetic relationships among different FCV isolates.
- **Active:** Only a small number of empirical studies have focused on the patterns and mechanisms behind disease clusters at small spatial scales, especially in wild host-pathogen systems.
- **Passive:** The patterns and mechanisms behind disease clusters at small spatial scales, especially in wild host-pathogen systems, have been focused on by only a small number of empirical studies.
- **Active:** We determined the presence of larvae by dip netting.
- **Passive:** The presence of larvae was determined by dip netting.
- **Active:** We evaluated the number of haplotypes (h), haplotypes (Hd), and nucleotides (π) using the DnaSP 5.10 program.
- **Passive:** The number of haplotypes (h), haplotypes (Hd), and nucleotides (π) was evaluated using the DnaSP 5.10 program.
- **Active:** We found a strong correlation between above-ground and below-ground biomass accumulation in Platanus occidentalis.
- **Passive:** A strong correlation was found between above-ground and below-ground biomass accumulation in Platanus occidentalis.

### Past tense

- **Active:** The risk of hair loss is increased by vitamin A.
- **Passive:** Every year, thousands of people are diagnosed with cancer.

### When to use the passive voice

You should aim to make the language of your article as reader-friendly as possible. Therefore, it is acceptable to use the passive voice when it is required.

1. To emphasize the product (receiver) rather than the agent (performer).
2. To keep the subject and focus consistent throughout a passage.
3. If you do not wish to name the subject.
4. To describe a condition in which the actor is unknown or unimportant.

Every year, thousands of people are diagnosed with cancer.