PASSIVE VS. ACTIVE VOICE

1. Marnie was bitten by the dog. (P)
2. The dog bit Marnie. (A)

Here, both answers are perfectly usable: it’s just a matter of how you want the tone of the answering dialogue to be. The first option sounds vaguely apologetic, but still explanatory. The second is much more direct and impersonal.

1. A jolly chortle emerged from Nicole’s gaping maw. (P)
2. Nicole chortled. (A)

Here, we have an example of passive voice in what we call “purple writing.” There is a lot of extraneous information in this. By cutting down the sentence and being direct, we can practice more concise writing.

1. The desk was laid upon by Elliott’s head. (P)
2. Elliott laid their head on the desk. (A)

While the passive voice can be used stylistically and effectively, here it is convoluted. The first sentence reads messily and backwards, while the second sentence is much more straightforward. Think about the different ways to frame a sentence in order to develop your writing.