

However, there may be situations where it is better to use the passive voice, such as

- when you want to emphasize the action or the affected thing
e.g. The shrubs **were flattened** by the heavy snow.
- when you don't know who or what performed the action
e.g. Our front window **was smashed** last night.
- when it doesn't matter who performed the action
e.g. 3 mg of sodium chloride **was dissolved** into 2 ml of water.
- when you want a statement to *seem* more objective and less subjective.
e.g. A diet rich in soluble fiber **has been proven** to lower cholesterol.

In academic writing, though, it's always better to tell the reader who did or said something.

e.g. L.F. Tinker has proven that a diet rich in soluble fiber lowers cholesterol.