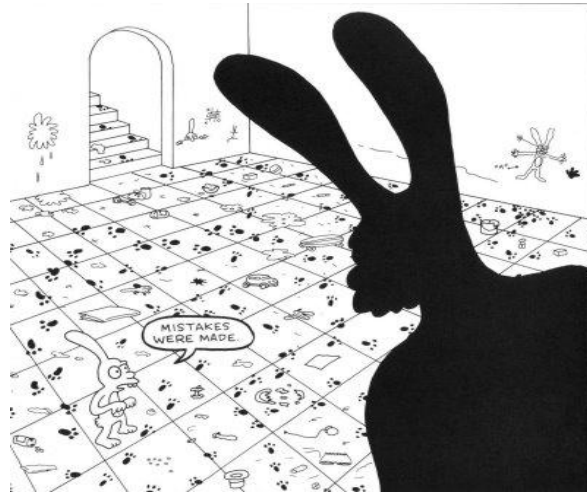


# Active and Passive Voice



## Voice

When used in writing, Voice indicates the relationship between a verb and its subject.

- **Active Voice**- emphasizes an actor and an action by having the actor as the subject
  - **ex.** "Sally drove the car"- **The actor is emphasized.**
- **Passive Voice**- emphasizes the receiver or result of the action, sometimes omitting the actor entirely.
  - **ex.** "The car was driven by Sally" **or** "The car was driven"- **The receiver (the car) is emphasized.**
- The use of passive voice, in itself, is not a grammatical error. In fact, it is often used by politicians to avoid responsibility- "Taxes will be raised"
- Because the actor is not emphasized when using the passive voice, it can make the writing seem imprecise. Passive voice is often frowned upon in academic writing.

**However, it is important to consider the rhetorical situation when deciding whether to use active or passive voice.**