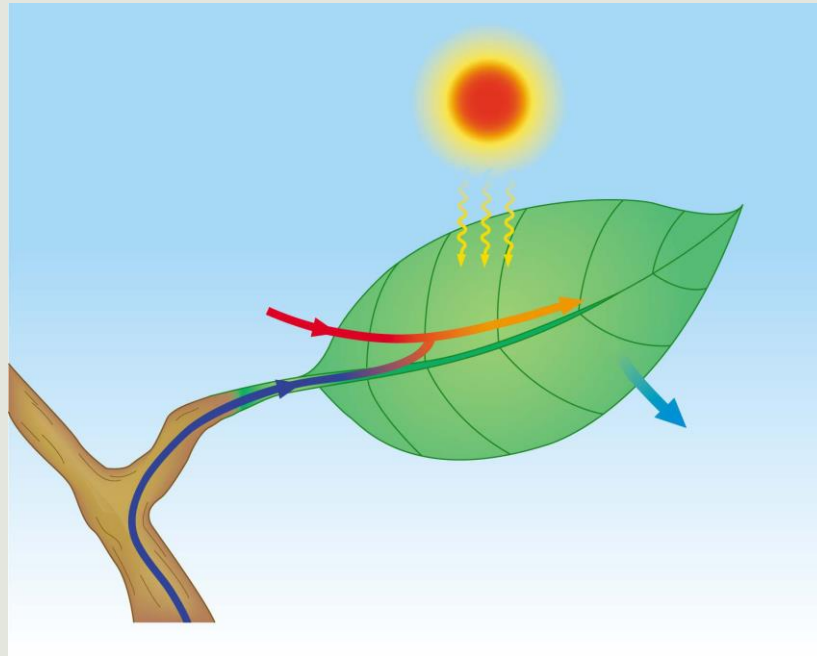


Writing the method stage in a Lab Report

Investigating whether light is needed for photosynthesis



The procedure or steps in an experiment

A **Lab manual**, tells you what to do, so the writer uses the Imperative form, eg:

Heat the test-tube.

Add a few drops of iodine solution.

We will start with the procedure in the textbook

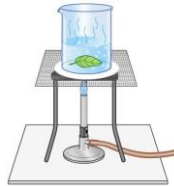
1. Destarch a potted plant for 24 hours.



2. Cover part of a leaf on the plant with a piece of aluminium foil.

3. Place the potted plant under sunlight for at least 4 hours.

4. Place the leaf into a beaker of boiling water for two minutes.



5. Turn off the Bunsen burner.

6. Use a pair of forceps to put the leaf into a boiling tube half-filled with alcohol.



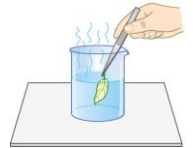
7. Place the boiling tube into a beaker of hot water for 10 minutes.



8. Take the leaf out of the alcohol with a pair of forceps.



9. Wash the leaf in the beaker of hot water.



10. Take the leaf out and spread it on a white tile.

11. Add a few drops of iodine solution to the leaf.



12. Observe the colour change of the solution.

Highlight the actions and what receives the action

1. Destarch a potted plant for 24 hours.
2. Cover part of a leaf on the potted plant with a piece of aluminium foil.
3. Place the potted plant under sunlight for at least 4 hours.
4. Place the leaf into a beaker of boiling water for two minutes.
5. Turn off the Bunsen burner.
6. Use a pair of forceps to put the leaf into a boiling tube half-filled with alcohol.
7. Place the boiling tube into a beaker of hot water for 10 minutes.
8. Take the leaf out of the alcohol with a pair of forceps.
9. Wash the leaf in the beaker of hot water.
10. Take the leaf out and spread it on a white tile.
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12. Observe the colour change of the solution.

Writing the method stage in a Lab Report

A **Lab Report** tells us what the scientist (you) did, so the scientist writer uses the past tense in a statement, eg:

I heated the test tube.

I added a few drops of iodine solution.

But, because we want to focus on the science and not the scientist, we put the science at the front and the scientist at the back (or leave him out!), eg:

The test-tube was heated ~~(by me)~~.

A few drops of iodine solution was added ~~(by me)~~.

Constructing the passive voice — Example 1

Instruction

Destarch

a potted plant

for 24 hours.

Active voice

This says what we did.

We

destarched

a potted plant

for 24 hours.

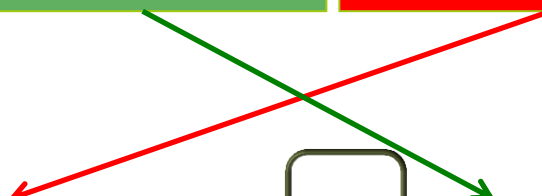
Passive voice

This says what was done.

A potted plant

was destarched

for 24 hours.



Constructing the passive voice — Example 2

Instruction

Cover

part of a leaf on
the potted plant

with a piece of
aluminium foil.

Active voice

This says what
we did.

We

covered

part of a leaf on
the potted plant

with a piece of
aluminium foil.

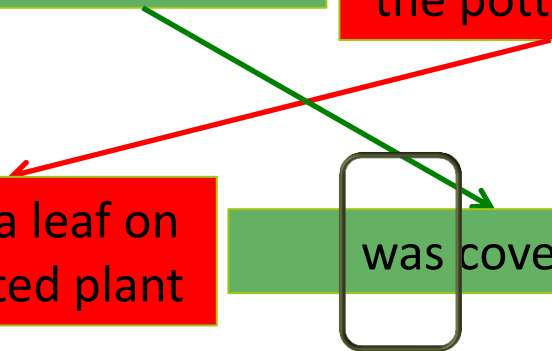
Passive voice

This says what
was done.

Part of a leaf on
the potted plant

was covered

with a piece of
aluminium foil.



Constructing the passive voice — Example 3

Instruction

Place

the potted plant

under sunlight for
a least 4 hours.

Active voice

This says what
we did.

We

covered

the potted plant

under sunlight for
a least 4 hours.

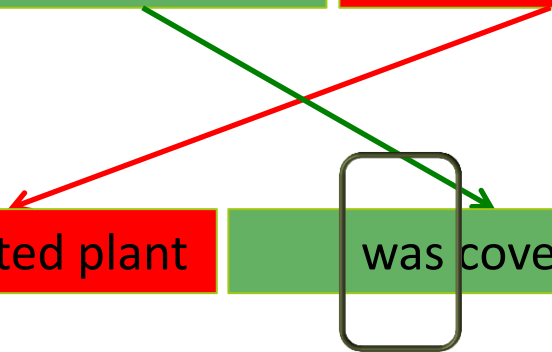
Passive voice

This says what
was done.

The potted plant

was covered

under sunlight for
a least 4 hours.



Writing the method stage in a Lab Report – Activity 1

Write what was done in these steps of the experiment — write in the past tense and in the passive voice.

4. Place the leaf into a beaker of boiling water for two minutes.

The leaf was placed into a beaker of boiling water for two minutes.

5. Turn off the Bunsen burner.

The Bunsen burner was turned off.

6. Use a pair of forceps to put the leaf into a boiling tube half-filled with alcohol.

A pair of forceps was used to put the leaf into a boiling tube half-filled with alcohol.

Writing the method stage in a Lab Report – Activity 1 (continued)

Write the remaining steps of the experiment, telling us **what was done**.

Answers

7. The boiling tube was placed into a beaker of hot water for 10 minutes.
8. The leaf was taken out of the alcohol with a pair of forceps.
9. The leaf was washed in the beaker of hot water.
10. The leaf was taken out and it was spread on a white tile.
11. A few drops of iodine solution was added to the leaf.
12. The colour change of the solution was observed.