

**EXERCISE 8-1 Active verbs: Guided practice**

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Revise any weak or unemphatic sentences by replacing passive verbs or *be* verbs with active alternatives. The numbers in the margin refer to appropriate revision strategies in section 8 of *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition. The first revision has been done for you, and a suggested revision of this exercise appears in the back of the book.

*Young slave Frederick Douglass enjoyed indulging*  
~~Indulging~~ in his favorite fantasy about slave owners ~~was something that young slave~~ 8b  
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~~Frederick Douglass enjoyed.~~ In his fantasy, everyone was in a conspiracy against the slave 8b  
 owners. No hint of an impending escape was given by slaves still in bondage. Members of 8a  
 the community never revealed the whereabouts of escaped slaves. Slaves who escaped suc-  
 cessfully never talked too much about how they got away. Owners were told nothing at all 8a  
 by slaves they recaptured. Even some white southerners who sympathized with the slaves  
 gave no information to their slave-owning friends. The part of his fantasy that Douglass en-  
 joyed the most was the final part. In it, Douglass imagined slave owners as being too afraid 8b  
 to hunt escaping slaves. The owners were distrustful of their slaves, their enemies, and even 8b  
 their friends.