

**EXERCISE 8-4 Active verbs: Guided review**

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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.

~~Some of~~ Frederick Douglass's ideas about the North ~~were changed~~ after his successful escape from slavery. Before that time, Douglass's assumption was that northerners lacked both money and culture. In the South, only poor people owned no slaves. Also, no lovely homes, no pianos, no art, and often no books were owned by poor people. When he first saw New Bedford, Massachusetts, Douglass was doubtful of his own eyesight. He saw no dilapidated houses or naked children or barefoot women in New Bedford. Instead, the beautiful homes with equally beautiful furniture and gardens were an indication of considerable wealth. Quality merchandise was handled by laborers on the wharves and purchased by them in the stores. When he saw all of this, Douglass happily <sup>changed some of his</sup> ideas about the North.

8a

8b

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