

The passive (present simple and past simple)

9.1 We form the passive with the correct tense of the verb *be* and the past participle.

These cars are made in China. (present)

This computer was made in Japan. (past)

The passive can be affirmative, negative or interrogative.

Present simple

Affirmative

They are powered by electricity.

Negative

Cricket isn't played in many countries.

Questions and short answers

Are they grown in Europe?
Yes, they are. / No, they aren't.

Past simple

It was powered by steam.

Basketball wasn't played in the 18th century.

Was it built by the Romans?
Yes, it was. / No, it wasn't.

9.2 We use the passive when either we do not know who or what performed the action, or we do not want to focus on who or what performed the action.

My laptop was stolen last weekend.

If we want to say who performed the action, we use *by*.
My house was designed by a famous architect.

9.3 When we use adverbs with the passive, we usually put them immediately before the past participle.

Phones are often used as video cameras.

It was probably discovered by the Ancient Greeks.

The passive (present perfect and future)

9.4 We form the present perfect passive like this:
present perfect of the verb *be* + past participle of the main verb

Affirmative

The room has been tidied.

Negative

The room hasn't been tidied.

Questions and short answers

Has the room been tidied?
Yes, it has. / No, it hasn't.

9.5 We form the future passive like this:
will / won't + be + past participle of the main verb

Affirmative

Teachers will be replaced by robots.

Negative

Teachers won't be replaced by robots.

Questions and short answers

Will teachers be replaced by robots?
Yes, they will. / No, they won't.

4 Complete the broadcasting facts. Use the past simple passive form of the verbs in brackets. ➔ 9.1, 9.2

- 1920 The first radio broadcast ¹ _____ (transmit) by KDKA in the USA.
- 1925 The first soap opera, *The Smith Family*, ² _____ (broadcast) on the radio.
- 1928 A television image ³ _____ (send) from England to the USA for the first time.
- 1928 The first television set ⁴ _____ (sell).
- 1936 The first BBC TV programmes ⁵ _____ (make) in the UK.
- 1940 Colour TV sets ⁶ _____ (demonstrate) by CBS in New York.
- 1947 Baseball games ⁷ _____ (televis) for the first time.
- 1954 More money ⁸ _____ (earn) by TV broadcasters than by radio broadcasters.
- 1964 Colour TV sets ⁹ _____ (buy) by families across the USA.

3 Complete the description using the present simple passive form of the verbs in brackets. ➔ 9.1

Our pizzas ¹ _____ (make) freshly every evening from a recipe which ² _____ (throw) by only a few people. Only the finest ingredients ³ _____ (use). The tomatoes ⁴ _____ (grow) in the south of Italy and the cheese ⁵ _____ (produce) using only the finest buffalo milk. The pizzas ⁶ _____ (prepare) by our skilled pizza chefs. Then they ⁷ _____ (cook) in our traditional pizza ovens. They ⁸ _____ (serve) with fresh salad.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb *be*. ➔ 9.1

- 1 I _____ mugged last summer in New York.
- 2 The museum _____ renovated two years ago.
- 3 Good food _____ served every night in our restaurant.
- 4 Nowadays, most food _____ made in factories.
- 5 The video clip _____ viewed over a million times that day.
- 6 Most newspapers _____ published online these days.
- 7 The first TV programmes _____ broadcast about 90 years ago.
- 8 Every year, we _____ invited to my aunt's house for New Year, but we never go!