

## The mothers of invention

### Grammar – Passive

#### 10A passive: be + past participle

Present: *am / is / are + past participle*

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- ☒ Kevlar **is used** to make bullet-proof vests.
- ☐ Tippex **isn't used** very much today.
- ☐ **Are** disposable nappies **used** all over the world?

Past: *was / were + past participle*

- ☒ The dishwasher **was invented** by Josephine Cochrane.
- ☐ Windscreen wipers **weren't invented** until 1903.
- ☐ When **was** the washing machine **invented**?

- You can often say things in two ways, in the active or in the passive.  
*Josephine Cochrane **invented** the dishwasher. (active)*  
*The dishwasher **was invented** by Josephine Cochrane. (passive)*
- In the **active** sentence, the focus is more on **Josephine Cochrane**.
- In the **passive** sentence the focus is more on **the dishwasher**.
- You can also use the passive when it isn't known or isn't important who does or did the action.  
*My car **was stolen** last week.*  
*Volvo cars **are made** in Sweden.*
- Use **by** to say who did the action.  
*The Lord of the Rings **was written by** Tolkien.*

#### 10A

a Complete with present or past passive.

- The Eiffel Tower was completed in 1889. (complete)
- 1 Many of the things we use every day \_\_\_\_\_ by women. (invent)
  - 2 In the UK most children \_\_\_\_\_ in state schools. (educate)
  - 3 Australia \_\_\_\_\_ by Captain Cook in 1770. (discover)
  - 4 This morning I \_\_\_\_\_ up by the neighbour's dog. (wake)
  - 5 Cricket \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer in the UK. (play)
  - 6 The songs on this album \_\_\_\_\_ last year. (record)
  - 7 Nowadays a lot of toys \_\_\_\_\_ in China. (make)
  - 8 Carols are songs which \_\_\_\_\_ at Christmas. (sing)
  - 9 These birds \_\_\_\_\_ in northern Europe. (not usually see)
  - 10 'Rome \_\_\_\_\_ in a day.' (not build)

b Rewrite the sentences in the passive, beginning with the **highlighted** words.

- Shakespeare wrote **Hamlet** in 1603.  
*Hamlet was written by Shakespeare in 1603.*
- 1 Jonathan Ive designed **the iPod and the iPhone**.
  - 2 Most Mediterranean countries produce **olive oil**.
  - 3 Herschel discovered **Uranus** in 1781.
  - 4 Barry Sonnenfeld directed **the Men in Black films**.
  - 5 David Hockney painted **Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy** in 1970–1971.
  - 6 Elvis Presley didn't write **Blue Suede Shoes**.
  - 7 JK Rowling wrote **the Harry Potter books**.
  - 8 They make **Daihatsu cars** in Japan.

## Answer Key

- a
- 1 were invented
  - 2 are educated
  - 3 was discovered
  - 4 was woken
  - 5 is played
  - 6 were recorded
  - 7 are made
  - 8 are sung
  - 9 aren't usually seen
  - 10 wasn't built
- b
- 1 The iPod and the iPhone were designed by Jonathan Ive.
  - 2 Olive oil is produced by most Mediterranean countries.
  - 3 Uranus was discovered by Herschel in 1781.
  - 4 The *Men in Black* films were directed by Barry Sonnenfeld.
  - 5 *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy* was painted by David Hockney in 1970-1971.
  - 6 *Blue Suede Shoes* wasn't written by Elvis Presley.
  - 7 The Harry Potter books were written by JK Rowling.
  - 8 Daihatsu cars are made in Japan.