

The mothers of invention

Grammar – Passive

<p>Passive: be + past participle</p> <p>Present: am / is /are + past participle</p> <p>(+) Kevlar is used to make bullet-proof vests.</p> <p>(-) Tippex isn't used very much today.</p> <p>(?) Are disposable nappies used all over the world?</p> <p>Past: was/were + past participle</p> <p>(+) The dishwasher was invented by Josephine Cochrane.</p> <p>(-) Windscreen wipers weren't invented until 1903.</p> <p>(?) When was the washing machine invented?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can often say things in two ways, in the active or in the passive. <p><i>Josephine Cochrane invented the dishwasher. (active)</i></p> <p><i>The dishwasher was invented by Josephine Cochrane. (passive)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 important who does or did the action. <p><i>My car was stolen last week.</i></p> <p><i>Volvo cars are made in Sweden.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use by to say who did the action. <p><i>The Lord of the Rings was written by Tolkien.</i></p>
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Exercises

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 song 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. (no 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.

