

Unit 11

11.1 The passive

Form

am/is/are
was/were
has/have been
will

+ -ed (past participle)

The past participle of regular verbs ends in -ed. There are many common irregular verbs. See the list on p143.

Present

Positive and negative

English is spoken all over the world.
Renault cars are made in France.
My children aren't helped with their homework.
Coffee isn't grown in England.

Question

Where is rice grown?
Are cars made in your country?

Past

Positive and negative

My car was stolen last night.
The animals were frightened by a loud noise.
He wasn't injured in the accident.
The thieves weren't seen by anyone.

Question

How was the window broken?
Were the plants watered last night?

Present Perfect

Positive and negative

I've been robbed!
Diet cola has been made since 1982.
They haven't been invited to the party.

Question

How many times have you been hurt playing football?
Has my car been repaired?

will

Positive and negative

10,000 cars will be produced next year.
The cars won't be sold in the UK.

Question

Will the children be sent to a new school?

Short answer

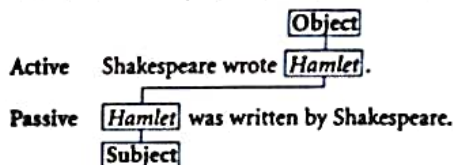
Are cars made in your country?	Yes, they are./No, they aren't.
Were the plants watered last night?	Yes, they were./No, they weren't.
Has my car been repaired?	Yes, it has./No, it hasn't.
Will these cars be produced next year?	Yes, they will./No, they won't.

Note

- The rules for tense usage in the passive are the same as in the active.
Present Simple to express habit:
My car is serviced regularly.
Past Simple to express a finished action in the past:
America was discovered by Christopher Columbus.
Present Perfect to express an action which began in the past and continues to the present:
Diet cola has been made since 1982.
- The passive infinitive (to be + -ed) is used after modal auxiliary verbs and other verbs which are followed by an infinitive.
Driving should be banned in city centres.
The house is going to be knocked down.

Use

- The object of an active verb becomes the subject of a passive verb. Notice the use of *by* in the passive sentence.



- The passive is not another way of expressing the same sentence in the active. We choose the active or the passive depending on what we are more interested in.
Hamlet was written in 1600. (We are more interested in Hamlet.)
Shakespeare wrote comedies, histories, and tragedies. (We are more interested in Shakespeare.)

Note

Some verbs, for example, *give*, *send*, *show*, have two objects, a person and a thing.
She gave me a book for my birthday.
In the passive, we often make the person the subject, not the thing.
I was given a book for my birthday.
She was sent the information by post.
You'll be shown where to sit.



11

Things that changed the world

Passives • Verbs and nouns that go together • Notices

STARTER



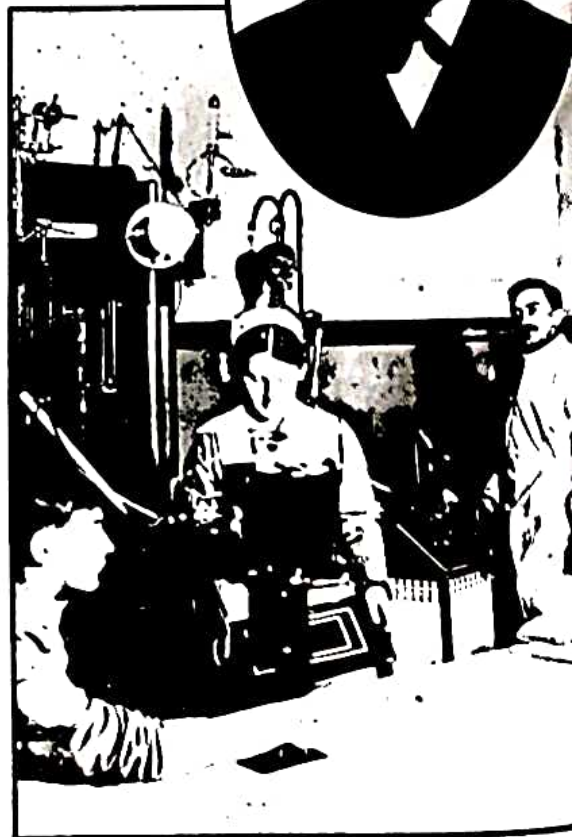
- 1 Make true sentences from the chart.
- 2 What is made and grown in your country?

Rice is grown in	China	Japan.
Ferraris are made in	Italy	Hawaii.
Nikon cameras are	made in	Brazil.
Coffee is grown in	Brazil	Italy.
Pineapples are grown in	Hawaii	China.

A PHOTOGRAPH THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Passives

- 1 Read the story of X-rays on p87. Are these sentences true(✓) or false(X)?
 - 1 X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1986.
 - 2 The first X-ray photograph was taken by Roentgen's wife.
 - 3 The first X-ray machine was also invented by Roentgen.
 - 4 It is called 'the window into the human body'.
 - 5 X-rays are only used in medicine.



GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Nearly all the verb forms in the text are in the passive. The passive is formed with the verb *to be* and the past participle.

X-ray machines are used every day.
The first X-ray machine was built in 1896.

- 2 Read the text again. Write the passive verb forms in the chart.

Present Simple	Past Simple	Present Perfect	will Future
are seen			

- 3 What is the main interest of the text? X-rays or Wilhelm Roentgen? When we are more interested in the object of the active sentence, we use the passive.

Active: *Wilhelm Roentgen discovered X-rays.*
 Passive: *X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen.*

▶▶ Grammar Reference 11.1 p140

A photograph that changed the world

This is the first X-ray photograph. It was taken by a German scientist, Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen, in 1896. It is his wife's hand. The bones in her hand (and also her wedding ring!) are clearly seen in the photo.

X-rays were discovered by accident, while Roentgen was experimenting with electricity. Soon after, he built the first X-ray machine. Immediately, hospital operations were made much safer. For the first time, doctors could see inside people's bodies before they cut them open! In 1901, Roentgen was awarded the very first Nobel Prize in Physics. His invention is still used every day by doctors and dentists, and is called 'the window into the human body'.

Since the introduction of computer imaging in the 1970s, X-ray machines have been used for other things, too. At airports, many criminals have been caught with illegal items in their luggage. Also, lost works of art have been discovered underneath other paintings. In factories, many faults in new products are found every day, using X-rays. It is certain that X-rays will be used for a long time in the future.



Active and passive

2 Complete these sentences.

Active	Passive
1 They make Rolls Royce cars in Britain.	1 Rolls Royce cars <u>are made</u> in Britain.
2 Over 5 million people <u>visit</u> the Eiffel Tower every year.	2 The Eiffel Tower is visited by over 5 million people every year.
3 Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876.	3 The telephone <u>was invented</u> by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.
4 Thieves <u>stole</u> 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch from a museum in Norway in 2004.	4 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch was stolen from a museum in Norway in 2004.
5 They <u>have sold</u> a Van Gogh painting for \$82 million.	5 A Van Gogh painting has been sold for \$82 million.
6 More than 2,000 people <u>have climbed</u> Mount Everest.	6 Mount Everest has been climbed by more than 2,000 people.
7 BMW will produce 200,000 Mini cars next year.	7 200,000 Mini cars <u>will be produced</u> by BMW next year.
8 <u>Did</u> Leonardo da Vinci <u>invent</u> the helicopter?	8 Was the helicopter invented by Leonardo da Vinci?
9 Bell didn't invent television.	9 Television <u>wasn't invented</u> by Bell.

4 Correct these sentences.

- 1 Paper is only used to make newspapers and books.
No, it isn't. It's used to make hundreds of everyday things.
- 2 All clothes are made out of paper.
No, they aren't. Only some ...
- 3 Before paper, people wrote on trees.
- 4 Paper was invented by a Chinese scientist.
- 5 The Chinese gave their invention to the world immediately.
- 6 They made paper out of wood.
- 7 The first paper mill in Europe was built in France.
- 8 Paper has been made out of cloth since the 18th century.

113 Listen and check.

Check it

- 5 Underline the correct word or words in each sentence.
- 1 Where was / were these shoes made?
 - 2 I was given this watch by / from my uncle.
 - 3 Someone has stolen / has been stolen my bag!
 - 4 The newsagent sells / is sold stamps.
 - 5 British policemen don't carry / aren't carried guns.
 - 6 All the tea was drank / drunk by nine o'clock.
 - 7 Have all the sandwiches eaten / been eaten?

The history of paper

Today, paper (1) is used (use) for hundreds of everyday things – books and newspapers, of course, but also money, stamps, cups, bags, and even some clothes.

Long ago, before paper, people (2) wrote (write) on animal skins, bones and stones. Then in 2700 BC, the Egyptians (3) started (start) to make papyrus, which was similar to paper. But the first real paper (4) was invented (invent) in AD 105 by a Chinese government official, Ts'ai Lun. It (5) was made (make) from a mixture of plants and cloth. The Chinese (6) kept (keep) their invention secret for centuries.

Finally, in the 10th century, paper (7) was brought (bring) to Europe by the Arabs. The first European paper mill (8) was built (build) in Spain in 1150. Since the 18th century, most paper (9) has been made (make) out of wood, because it is much stronger than cloth.

Nowadays, each person (10) uses (use) about 300 kg of paper every year. That's a lot of paper!