Passive Voice: Present & Past Simple

B1-B1+ GRAMMAR PRACTICE • 60 QUESTIONS + ANSWER KEY

Learn when to use the passive and how to form it in the present simple and past simple.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quick guide: how does the passive work?

PRESENT SIMPLE PASSIVE

am / is / are + past participle

Tea is grown in India.

The rooms are not cleaned on Sundays.

PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE

was / were + past participle

The bridge was built in 2005.

Were the windows repaired?

Use the passive when the action is more important than who does it.

Active: Someone stole my bike. Passive: My bike was stolen.

Use by + person only when the doer matters: The novel was written by Austen.

Exercise 1: Present or past?

Write Pr for present simple passive or Pa for past simple passive.

01. The tickets are checked at the entrance. _____

02. The window was broken during the storm. _____

03. Lunch is served at 12.30 every day. _____

04. My parcel was delivered yesterday. _____

05. The results are announced every Friday. _____

06. The bridge was built in 1998. _____

07. The rooms are cleaned every morning. _____

08. That painting was sold last week. _____

09. New books are added to the library each month. _____

10. The concert was cancelled last night. _____

Complete the Passive Forms

Exercise 2: Present simple passive

Complete the sentences with am, is or are + the past participle. Use negatives or questions where needed.

01. Coffee _____ (grow) in many countries.

02. These letters _____ (send) every Monday.

03. My car _____ (wash) once a week.

04. The classroom _____ (clean) after every lesson.

05. These books _____ (not / sell) in local shops.

06. _____ English _____ (speak) in Malta?

07. How often _____ these filters _____ (change)?

08. Most of our orders _____ (pack) by hand.

09. The final scores _____ (publish) every Monday.

10. Where _____ these uniforms _____ (make)?

Exercise 3: Past simple passive

Complete the sentences with was or were + the past participle. Use negatives or questions where needed.

01. The new school _____ (open) in 2012.

02. Several paintings _____ (steal) last night.

03. My flight _____ (cancel) yesterday.

04. The invitation _____ (not / send) on time.

05. _____ the letters _____ (deliver) on Friday?

06. The street lights _____ (repair) last week.

07. The cake _____ (eat) before the party began.

08. The film _____ (not / show) at our cinema last year.

09. Why _____ the match _____ (stop) in the second half?

10. The winners _____ (announce) at the ceremony yesterday.

From Active to Passive

Exercise 4: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence in the passive. Keep the tense and meaning. Do not add by + agent.

01. They recycle glass in this town.

02. Someone painted the door yesterday.

03. People speak Spanish in several countries.

04. They repaired the lift last Friday.

05. The school organises a sports day every year.

06. A local company built the bridge in 2005.

07. They do not allow pets in this hotel.

08. The manager did not approve the plan.

09. Do they sell tickets online?

10. Did anyone find the missing bag?

Check your work

Is the new subject correct? Did you use be + past participle and keep the original tense?

Choose & Correct

Exercise 5: Choose the correct answer

Circle a, b or c. Pay attention to time expressions and passive forms.

01. The emails _____ every morning. a) are answered b) were answered c) answer

02. This statue _____ in 1890. a) makes b) is made c) was made

03. All receipts _____ electronically at this shop. a) are printed b) printed c) were printing

04. That road _____ last winter. a) is repaired b) was repaired c) repairs

05. All jackets in this range _____ from recycled materials. a) make b) are made c) were making

06. The documents _____ last Tuesday. a) were signed b) are signed c) signed

07. English _____ at this school. a) teaches b) is taught c) was teaching

08. The museum _____ by thousands of people each year. a) visits b) was visited c) is visited

09. The computer _____ last week. a) was repaired b) is repaired c) repaired

10. Packages _____ after 6 p.m. on weekdays. a) not deliver b) aren't delivered c) weren't delivered

Exercise 6: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence contains one mistake in a passive form. Write the correct sentence.

01. The letters is sent every Friday.

02. The house was build in 1965.

03. This soup is make with fresh vegetables.

04. The message weren't received yesterday.

05. Are the tickets check at the gate?

06. Our town hall were opened in 1901.

07. The windows doesn't cleaned on Sundays.

08. Was the documents printed yesterday?

09. Pizza are served until 10 p.m.

10. The painting wasn't solded at the auction.

Answer Key

PASSIVE VOICE: PRESENT & PAST SIMPLE • CHECK YOUR WORK

Exercise 1 - Present or past?

1 Pr 2 Pa 3 Pr 4 Pa 5 Pr 6 Pa 7 Pr 8 Pa 9 Pr 10 Pa

Exercise 2 - Present simple passive

1. is grown
2. are sent
3. is washed
4. is cleaned
5. aren't sold
6. Is ... spoken
7. are ... changed
8. are packed
9. are published
10. are ... made

Exercise 3 - Past simple passive

1. was opened
2. were stolen
3. was cancelled
4. wasn't sent
5. Were ... delivered
6. were repaired
7. was eaten
8. wasn't shown
9. was ... stopped
10. were announced

Exercise 4 - Active to passive

1. Glass is recycled in this town.
2. The door was painted yesterday.
3. Spanish is spoken in several countries.
4. The lift was repaired last Friday.
5. A sports day is organised every year.
6. The bridge was built in 2005.
7. Pets are not allowed in this hotel.
8. The plan was not approved.
9. Are tickets sold online?
10. Was the missing bag found?

Exercise 5 - Multiple choice

1 a 2 c 3 a 4 b 5 b 6 a 7 b 8 c 9 a 10 b

Exercise 6 - Corrected sentences

1. The letters are sent every Friday.
2. The house was built in 1965.
3. This soup is made with fresh vegetables.
4. The message wasn't received yesterday.
5. Are the tickets checked at the gate?
6. Our town hall was opened in 1901.
7. The windows aren't cleaned on Sundays.
8. Were the documents printed yesterday?
9. Pizza is served until 10 p.m.
10. The painting wasn't sold at the auction.