

form:

Basic steps to form the passive voice:

- 1 The object of the active becomes the subject of the passive.
- 2 We add the auxiliary "to be" – "is/are" when the main verb of the active is present, and "was/were" when it is past.
- 3 In negative or interrogative sentences the auxiliary "to do" is replaced by "to be":
- **do(n't) / does(n't)** become **is(n't) / are(n't)**;
- **did(n't)** becomes **was(n't) or were(n't)**.
- 4 We turn the main verb of the active into the past participle.
- 5 If we need or want to add the agent of the passive, we must use "by".

PASSIVE VOICE

with the PRESENT and PAST SIMPLE

Use:

We use the passive voice when we are more interested in the action itself rather than in "who" or "what" did the action.

The agent can be:

- * **unimportant** – "These shoes are made in Indonesia." (the action is more important than who made the shoes)
- * **unknown** – "The windows were broken yesterday." (somebody broke the windows and we don't know who did it)
- * **implicit** – "He was arrested." (most certainly by the police)

examples:

Magazines **use** **pop singers** as models.

Pop singers **are used** as models **by** magazines.

1

2

4

5

When **did** Tom **write** **this letter**?

When **was** **this letter** **written** **by** Tom?

3

1

4

5

SIMPLE PRESENT

SIMPLE PAST

A. Complete the blanks with **is/are + participle**.

- 1) Computers _____ (sell) in many different stores.
- 2) English _____ (speak) almost everywhere.
- 3) _____ these shoes _____ (design) in Portugal?
- 4) Less ice-cream _____ (eat) in the winter.
- 5) Spanish _____ (teach) in my school too.
- 6) Fashionable clothes _____ (wear) both by boys and girls.
- 7) Many people _____ (influence) by the media.
- 8) Lots of TV _____ (watch) nowadays.

B. Rewrite the sentences in the passive – use the "by" agent only when necessary.

- 1) He takes Linda to school every day.

- 2) They don't close the shops on Saturdays.

- 3) When does Mike feed the dog?

- 4) Michael wins every competition.

- 5) People invent new things all the time.

- 6) Does your mother always prepare your breakfast?

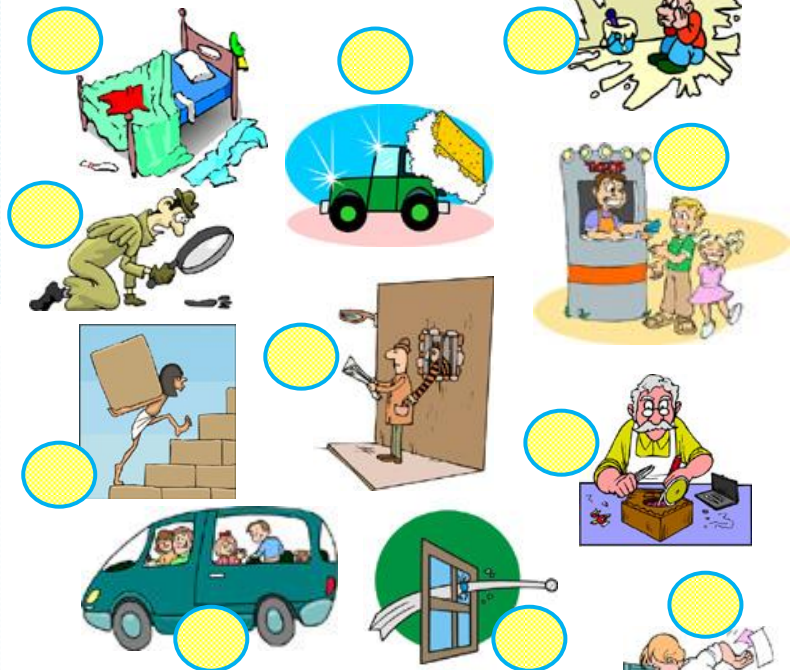
- 7) We don't wear school uniforms in this school.

- 8) He keeps his money in a safe place.

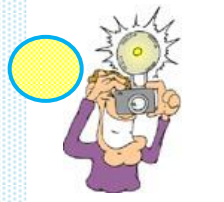
- 9) My mother buys all my clothes.

- 10) Do you sell safety-pins in your store?

C. Rewrite the sentences in the passive and match them with the pictures.



- 1) He didn't find his files.
- 2) He washed his car on Sunday.
- 3) I didn't paint the whole room.
- 4) My grandfather repaired the old clock.
- 5) John took a lot of photos at the party.
- 6) Richard broke the window.
- 7) The detective solved the case.
- 8) I didn't make my bed this morning.
- 9) They bought the tickets yesterday.
- 10) The Smith drove the children to school.
- 11) Someone stole his wallet.
- 12) Slaves built these pyramids.



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1 2 4 5

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When **was** **this letter** **written** **by** Tom?

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SIMPLE PAST

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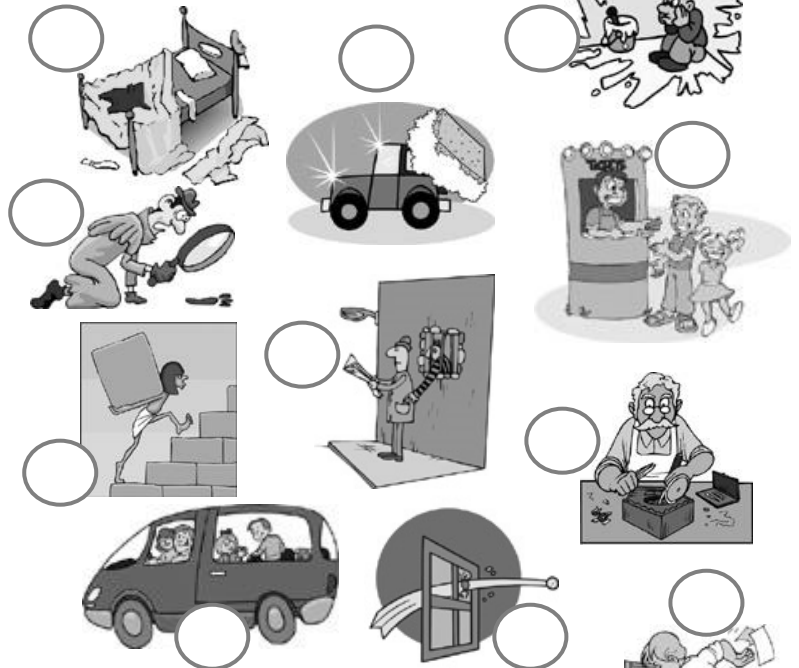
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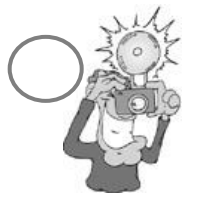
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- 12) Slaves built these pyramids.



KEY

A.

- 1) Computers *are sold* in many different stores.
- 2) English *is spoken* almost everywhere.
- 3) *Are* these shoes *designed* in Portugal?
- 4) Less ice-cream *is eaten* in the winter.
- 5) Spanish *is taught* in my school too.
- 6) Fashionable clothes *are worn* both by boys and girls.
- 7) Many people *are influenced* by the media.
- 8) Lots of TV *is watched* nowadays.

B.

- 1) Linda is taken to school every day.
- 2) The shops aren't closed on Saturdays.
- 3) When is the dog fed (by Mike)?
- 4) Every competition is won by Michael.
- 5) New things are invented all the time.
- 6) Is your breakfast always prepared by your mother?
- 7) School uniforms aren't worn in this school.
- 8) His money is kept in a safe place.
- 9) All my clothes are bought by my mother.
- 10) Are safety-pins sold in your store?

C.

- 1) He didn't find his files. His files weren't found.
- 2) He washed his car on Sunday. His car was washed on Sunday.
- 3) I didn't paint the whole room. The whole room wasn't painted.
- 4) My grandfather repaired the old clock. The old clock was repaired (by my grandfather).
- 5) John took a lot of photos at the party. A lot of photos were taken at the party (by John).
- 6) Richard broke the window. The window was broken by Richard.
- 7) The detective solved the case. The case was solved (by the detective).
- 8) I didn't make my bed this morning. My bed wasn't made this morning.
- 9) They bought the tickets yesterday. The tickets were bought yesterday.
- 10) The Smith drove the children to school. The children were driven to school (by the Smith).
- 11) Someone stole his wallet. His wallet was stolen.
- 12) Slaves built these pyramids. These pyramids were built by slaves.