

UNIT 11 — simple past passive

Function

We use the simple past passive to focus on the thing that received the action, when we don't know who or what did something, when it's obvious or unimportant who or what did something.

Form

Affirmative		Negative	
Auxiliary <i>was/were</i> in simple past	+ past participle of the verb	Auxiliary <i>was/were</i> in simple past + not	+ past participle of the verb
The biro pen was	invented by a Hungarian, Laszlo Biro.	I wasn't	invited to the party.
We were given	free coffee.	We weren't seen	by a doctor.

A Complete the text using the simple past passive forms of the verbs in parentheses.

I **1** _____ (give) a really cool birthday present last Christmas—grass flip-flops! When you wear them, you feel like you're walking on grass. Grass flip-flops **2** _____ (invent) by an Australian man who loved the feeling of grass under his feet!

My best-ever present **3** _____ (give) to me by my best friend, Anna. It's a beautiful picture of a Scottish landscape, and it's special because it **4** _____ (take) by her.

On my last birthday, I got a pair of socks. They **5** _____ (knit) by my aunt, and they **6** _____ (make of) hard, scratchy wool. I didn't like them very much!

GRAMMAR simple past passive

A Read the sentences. Choose the correct option to complete the grammar rules.

De Mestral noticed that his dog was covered in burrs. His pants were also covered in them.

- 1 We form the simple past passive with the verb *be* / *have* in the simple past followed by the past participle / *-ing* form of the verb.
- 2 We use the simple past passive when we are talking about the past and ...
 - we want to focus on the thing that does / receives the action.
 - we are interested in / don't know who or what does something.
 - it's unimportant / essential who or what does something.

B Complete the text with the simple past passive form of the verbs in parentheses.

Superglue **1** _____ (discover) by accident. In 1942, Dr. Harry Coover was trying to make clear plastic. This **2** _____ (need) for military equipment. A number of chemicals **3** _____ (create) in the laboratory, and one of them was called cyanoacrylate. It wasn't a clear plastic, but it was a strong glue. It **4** _____ (develop) because it wasn't useful for that project. Nine years later, Coover was working on jet planes and cyanoacrylate **5** _____ (use) again. This time, Coover realized how useful it was. Superglue **6** _____ (release) as a commercial product in 1958.



MAKE IT DIGITAL

Search online for the history of an invention (cell phone, TV, the internet, etc.). Find out how it was invented. Tell the class.



SPEAKING

A Answer the questions for you.

- 1 Think of something that was bought for, made for, or given to you. What was it? _____
- 2 When was it bought/made/given? _____
- 3 Who was it bought/made/given by? _____
- 4 How did you feel when it was bought/made/given? _____

B IN PAIRS Discuss your object from A. Ask and answer questions about it. Use the Confident Communicator box to help you.

A: I have a guitar. It was bought for me by my grandfather.

B: When was it bought for you?

A: A year ago. It was given to me for my birthday, and ...

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATOR

KEEP TALKING

Use *by* to say who or what did something in the passive.
It was made by my uncle.

LISTENING

A You are going to listen to a lecture. Look at the picture. What do you think the lecture will be about?

B 11.05 LISTENING SKILL—Listen for gist Listen to the first part of the lecture and choose the correct summary.

- 1 Thato faces a number of problems. She works in a school that has no electricity. The children are tired after their trip to school. They find it hard to do their schoolwork.
- 2 Thato thought about the problems of schoolchildren. Getting to and from school is sometimes dangerous. They live without electricity and it is difficult for them to do their homework.



C 11.06 Listen to the rest of the lecture. Then complete the sentences with the words from the box.

a light drivers plastic bags schoolbags

- 1 There is a problem with _____ in South Africa.
- 2 Thato made _____ out of trash.
- 3 Her products have a solar panel, a battery, and _____.
- 4 The children can be seen by _____.