Unit 12: Passive voice

The passive: present simple

We form the present simple passive by using the correct form of be followed by the past participle.

Active	Passive
They teach Russian at our school.	*Russian **is taught** at our school.*
We feed our cat twice a day.	*Our cat **is fed** twice a day.*

We use passive verbs rather than active verbs when:

- we don't know who does the action:

*Our school **is cleaned** every evening.*
(I don't know who cleans it.)

- we are more interested in who or what is affected by the action of the verb than who or what does the action:

*A lot of trainers **are made** in China.*
(Here the focus is on *trainers* rather than who makes them.)
*We are always **given** a lot of homework to do in the holidays.*
(Here we is the focus, not the homework, or the teachers who give the homework.)

To say who does something in the passive, we use *by* + the person or thing:
*English **is spoken by** most people in my country.*
*The TV show is very popular and **is watched by** three million people.*

Complete the sentences with the present simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

1 A lot of tea ..... (grow) in China.
2 Millions of bottles of water ..... (sell) every day.
3 Interesting films ..... (show) at the cinema in my town.
4 Our furniture ..... (make) out of wood.
5 The road ..... (close) today because of the storm.

Write complete sentences in the present passive.

1 My shoes / made of leather.
.....
2 I / give money for my birthday.
.....
3 Rugby / not play at my school.
.....
4 English / speak all over the world.
.....
5 CDs / not sell here anymore.
.....
6 My brother / call Kieran
.....

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Complete the definitions with the present passive form of the verbs in brackets. Then write the correct word.

camera email address internet
keyboard mouse screen

1 Photos ..are taken.. (take) with this. ....camera....
2 Films ..... (watch) on this.
.....
3 This ..... (need) to write on a computer. .....
4 Music ..... (download) from here.....
5 This ..... (move) and it ..... (click) to do things on the computer screen. .....
6 Messages ..... (send) to you here.....

1 **Complete the information with the present passive of the verbs in brackets.**

FACTFILE

YouTube Amazing information about YouTube

1 Every day, five billion* videos are watched (watch) on YouTube.
2 300 hours of video ..... (put) on YouTube every minute.
3 Each month, YouTube ..... (visit) 1.57 billion times.
4 YouTube ..... (use) in 88 different countries and in 76 different languages.
5 About 20 percent of YouTube videos ..... (start) but then left after ten seconds.
6 YouTube videos ..... (see) on mobile phones over one billion times a day.
7 Over 3.25 billion hours ..... (spent) watching videos on YouTube each month.

* 1 billion = 1,000,000,000

Complete the text with the present passive form of the verbs in brackets.

WHAT IS *Instagram*?

Instagram is an app which **(1)** ..... (use) to share photos and videos with friends. It's easy to join Instagram; the app **(2)** ..... (download) for free onto a smartphone and you then sign up using your email address or phone number. Often a real name **(3)** ..... (not use) – a lot of people use a nickname. On Instagram, the people who see our photos or videos **(4)** ..... (not call) 'friends'. They **(5)** ..... (know) as 'followers' because they follow our posts. Many famous people **(6)** ..... (follow) on Instagram. Some famous pop stars have over 100 million followers!

LIVEWORKSHEETS