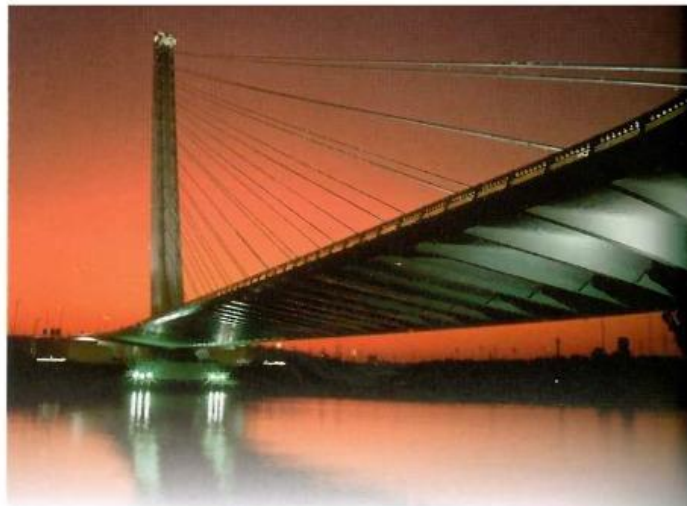


96 The passive (1)

Santiago Calatrava designed the Alamillo Bridge in Seville. It was opened in 1992.



1 Present simple and past simple

We make the passive of the present and past simple with *is/are/was/were* + the past participle. The object of an active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence:

*They **opened** the bridge in 1992.* (active, bridge = the object)

*The bridge **was opened** in 1992.* (passive, bridge = the subject)

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
present simple	<i>We make cheese from milk.</i> <i>The farmer grows wheat crops in this field.</i> <i>We don't allow children in the restaurant.</i> <i>Does anyone ever wash these windows?</i>	<i>Cheese is made from milk.</i> <i>Wheat crops are grown in this field.</i> <i>Children aren't allowed in the restaurant.</i> <i>Are these windows ever washed?</i>
past simple	<i>Europeans found the temple in 1813.</i> <i>They didn't open the bridge until 1992.</i> <i>Did the postman deliver the letters yesterday?</i> <i>When did they discover it?</i>	<i>The temple was found in 1813.</i> <i>The bridge wasn't opened until 1992.</i> <i>Were the letters delivered yesterday?</i> <i>When was it discovered?</i>

⚠ We don't make passives from verbs that don't have objects (e.g. *come, arrive, happen, wait*):
~~✗ I was grown up in a small village.~~ ✓ *I grew up in a small village.*

⚠ Born is always passive:
~~✗ My brother born in 1995.~~ ✓ *My brother was born in 1995.*

2 Use

We usually use an active verb when we are interested in the person who does the action:
*Santiago Calatrava **designed** the Alamillo Bridge.*

We use a passive verb

- when we are more interested in the action than the person who did it:
*The bridge **was opened** in 1992.*
- when we don't know the person:
*Julia's handbag **was stolen**. (We don't know who stole it.)*
- when the action is a law or rule:
*Smoking **is not allowed** in this building.*

3 Passive + by

We can say:

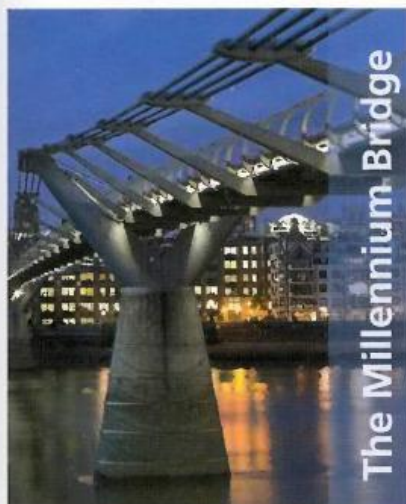
*Santiago Calatrava **designed** the bridge.* or *The bridge **was designed** by Santiago Calatrava.*

Practice

1 Write the sentences and questions again. Use passive forms only.

- A I'd like to ask you some questions about the house I'm renting from Mr and Mrs Garcia this summer.
- B OK.
- A Do the owners heat the swimming pool? 0 *Is the swimming pool heated* ?
- B No, they don't heat it. 1 No, ?
- A How often does the maid clean the bedrooms? 2 How often ?
- B She cleans them every day. 3 The bedrooms ?
- A Do you include meals in the rent? 4 ?
- B No, we don't include them. 5 No, meals ?
- A When did they build the house? 6 When ?
- B They built it four years ago. 7 It ?
- A Did the owners sign the agreement on Friday? 8 ?
- B No, they didn't sign the agreement. 9 No, it ?
- A But I paid the deposit on time! 10 But the deposit !

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the article.



THIS IS THE FAMOUS MILLENNIUM BRIDGE which (0) *crosses* / *is crossed* the River Thames in London. Every day the bridge (1) *be* / *is* used by thousands of people. Many of them do not know that when the bridge first opened, there was a serious problem and it (2) *was* / *were* closed again for almost two years.

The bridge was designed (3) *by* / *from* the famous British architect, Sir Norman Foster. It (4) *opened* / *was opened* by Queen Elizabeth II on 9 May 2000 but members of the public were only allowed to use the bridge on 10 June. Over 90,000 people (5) *were used* / *used* the bridge on that first day. All the people walking on the bridge (6) *made* / *was made* it move slowly from side to side. It was a strange experience and some of the people were very frightened. The next day the same thing (7) *happened* / *was happened* again, so the bridge was (8) *closed* / *closing* until they fixed the problem.

3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first. Use one, two or three words.

- 0 They make cars there. Cars *are made there*
- 1 Tommy Hilfiger designed her dress. Her dress Tommy Hilfiger.
- 2 Somebody stole my dictionary yesterday. My dictionary
- 3 She cleans the windows once a week. The windows once a week.
- 4 They didn't accept your offer. Your offer
- 5 The teacher doesn't mark our homework every day. Our homework every day.