

The Passive Voice in Past



5 Make these sentences passive.

a. A virus infected my computer last month.

b. The hurricane demolished the house two weeks ago.

c. Someone threw away the letters by mistake.

d. The cook prepared a nice dinner yesterday.

6 Read the text and fill in the spaces with the correct form of the Past Simple Passive.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones (a) _____ (develop) throughout the 20th century. In 1908, an American power company claimed that they had created a wireless phone. The company (b) _____ (accuse) of fraud, but later the accusation (c) _____ (drop).

In 1949, an American company called AT&T (d) _____ (start) in St. Louis, Missouri. There were about 5,000 customers and about 30,000 calls (e) _____ (make) per week.

At that time, the phones were still not mobile, so the equipment for making these calls (f) _____ (measure) at about 35 kg and had to stay in your house.

Later, several other wireless networks (g) _____ (start) in Europe, but they weren't compatible with American networks. Service (h) _____ (add) throughout the rest of Europe shortly afterwards.

The idea of cellular towers (i) _____ (introduce) next. At first, each mobile phone (j) _____ (limit) to service by only one cell tower. Then, as new technology (k) _____ (create), people (l) _____ (allow) to transfer their service from tower to tower.

In 1973, the first hand-held, truly mobile cellular phone (m) _____ (invent). Since then, the technology has grown faster and faster until today, mobile phones are so common that nobody thinks about them twice.

7 Write full sentences using the Past Simple Passive.

- a. Harry Potter / write / 1997 _____
- b. the first email / send / 1973 _____
- c. the first space shuttle / launch / 1981 _____
- d. the Eiffel Tower / build / 1887 _____
- e. atoms / discover / in 1897 _____