

## 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)

# PASSIVE VOICE

with the PRESENT and PAST SIMPLE

## form:

Basic steps to form the passive voice:

The object of the active becomes the subject of the passive.

We add the auxiliary "to be" – "is/are" when the main verb of the active is present, and "was/were" when it is past.

## examples:

Magazines **use** pop singers as models.

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

Tom **wrote** this letter

this letter **was written** by Tom?

## SIMPLE PRESENT

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

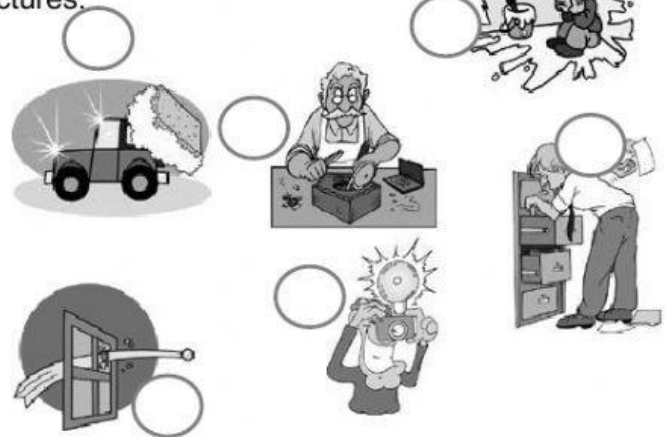
- Computers \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) in many different stores.
- English \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) almost everywhere.
- Less ice-cream \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) in the winter.
- Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) in my school too.
- Many people \_\_\_\_\_ (influence) by the media.

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

- He takes Linda to school every day.  
Linda is taken to school everyday
- People invent new things all the time.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- He keeps his money in a safe place.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My mother buys all my clothes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you sell safety-pins in your store?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SIMPLE PAST

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



- He found his files.  
His files were found
- He washed his car on Sunday.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I painted the whole room.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My grandfather repaired the old clock.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- John took a lot of photos at the party.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Richard broke the window.  
\_\_\_\_\_