

The Passive

We use the passive...

- when we don't know the actor (the person who does the action)
- when the object is more important than the actor (we can use "by" the actor in this case)
- when the actor isn't important

This is how we form the passive **in the present / past** (it's also possible to use the passive form in the perfect and continuous forms!)

Affirmative:

| The object | + the verb "to be" | + the past participle | (+ by + the actor) |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| I | am / was | paid | by my mother |
| You | are / were | built | by the government |
| She/He/It | is / was | studied | by the Spanish |
| We | are / were | spoken | by Gaudí |
| They | are / are | written | by students |

For example: The book ("it") is/was written in 1986. It was written by a Spanish author.

Negative:

| The object | + the verb "to be" | + not (or n't) | + the past participle | (+ by + the actor) |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| I | am / was | not n't | paid | by my mother |
| You | are / were | | built | by the government |
| She/He/It | is / was | | studied | by the Spanish |
| We | are / were | | spoken | by Gaudí |
| They | are / are | | written | by students |

For example: I wasn't born in France. They were not paid by their company.

Question:

| + the verb "to be" | the object | + the past participle | (+ by + the actor) | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Am / Was | I | paid | by my mother | ? |
| Are / Were | you | built | by the government | |
| Is / Was | she/he/it | studied | by the Spanish | |
| Are / Were | we | spoken | by Gaudí | |
| Are / Are | they | written | by students | |

For example: Were you born in England? Is Spanish spoken in Japan?

Now let's practise.

1. a. He bought this camera in New York.
b. This camera in New York.
2. c. Vegetarians don't eat meat.
d. Meat
3. e. The price of the hotel room includes dinner.
f. in the price of the hotel room.
4. g. He finished the work in only one hour.
h. in only one hour.
5. i. Einstein didn't invent electricity.
j. by Einstein.
6. k. The Chinese first used paper money over a thousand years ago.
l. Paper money
7. m. People make hamburgers from meat, usually.
n., usually.
8. o. People speak French in Algeria.
p.
9. q. Thousands of tourists visited Barcelona in 2019.
r. by thousands of tourists in 2019.
10. s. I sold my old car yesterday.
t.
11. u. The teacher told the students they wouldn't have a test.
v. The students a test.
12. w. Who wrote *Macbeth*?
x. Who by?
13. y. Teachers don't permit students to speak during the exams.
z. to speak during the exams.

What is the past participle of the following verbs?

discover

build

invent

use

make

write

speak

sell

tell

permit

eat

fall

buy

teach

Complete the text with the correct form of the verb. You might need to use present (**is played**), continuous (**are being played**), past (**was played**) or even future (**will be played**)!



The Basílica de la Sagrada Família DESIGN by Antoni Gaudí in the 19th Century. It PAID for by private donations. Gaudí BURY in the crypt. The building START in 1882, and it was STOP by the Spanish Civil War, when many of the original plans DESTROY by fire. Ten spires CONSTRUCT when the building FINISH in the future.

A new star will LIGHT next month (December 2021). The star NOT APPRECIATE by everybody!

It CONSECRATE Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. Visitors CHARGE €20 to go inside the basilica.

