

Grammar & Listening the passive

Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 How often do you eat canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fish and canned fruit?
- 2 What are the advantages and disadvantages of canned food compared to fresh food?

10.4 Listen to a talk about preserving food (keeping food fresh for a long time). Tick (✓) the topics you learn about.

- a the dangers of opening cans
- b the first food containers
- c the dangers of eating canned food
- d the future of cans
- e the reason why cans were invented



10.4 Listen again and complete the sentences.

- 1 Millions of years ago, water was kept in dried _____ skins and coconut shells.
- 2 Cans were invented in the year _____ by a French chef.
- 3 The first cans were used by _____.
- 4 These days more than _____ cans are produced every year in the UK.

Look at sentences a-c and answer the questions.

- a The first cans were used by soldiers.
- b Soldiers used the first cans.
- c The first 'safe' can opener was invented in 1925.

- 1 Do sentences a and b mean the same? In which sentence do we focus more on the cans? In which sentence do we focus more on the people who used them?
- 2 Does sentence c tell us who invented the can opener?

10.2 The passive

GR10.2

Present	Subject	be	Past participle	
	The best pasta	is	produced	in Italy.
	The vegetables	aren't	cooked	enough.
Past	The restaurant	was	given	an excellent review.
	The cars	weren't	made	in this country.

Active v passive

Active *This factory makes milk cartons.*

Passive *Milk cartons are made in this factory.*

We can often say sentences in two ways, in the active or in the passive.

- We use the active when we want to focus on the person or thing (the 'agent') that does the action.
My mother cooks chicken every Sunday.
- We use the passive when we want to focus on the person or thing that the action happens to.
The chicken is always served with potatoes.
- We often use the passive when we don't know who the agent is, or when it is obvious or not important.
The sauce is made with honey.
- After the past participle, we often need a preposition.
A lot of oranges are grown in Spain.
Food from around the world is found on supermarket shelves.
- If we want to say who does or did an action (the agent), we use the preposition *by*.
The menu was designed by the chef Rachel Allen.

In passive sentences it is often not necessary to give information about the agent, or the agent is not known. In these cases we don't include the information about the agent.
An excellent menu was created.

NOT *An excellent menu was created by the restaurant manager.*

Let's practice!

1 Write sentences in the present or past passive.

- 1 fresh pizza / sell / in the local supermarket
Fresh pizza is sold in the local supermarket.
- 2 tomatoes / introduce to Europe / in the fifteenth century

- 3 where / asparagus / grow ?

- 4 eat / spicy food / in Mexico ?

- 5 curry / not eat / in England until the eighteenth century

- 6 when / butter / first made ?

2 Put the words in the right order.

- 1 celebrities / the / visited / by / restaurant / is / many
The restaurant is visited by many celebrities.
- 2 served / with / was / soup / bread / the ?

- 3 bottles / lemonade / sold / is / cans / usually / or / in

- 4 Europe / not / are / grown / bananas / in

- 5 this / kept / cupboard / are / glasses / in / the ?

- 6 often / not / is / served / dinner / 10 p.m. / before

3 Complete the article with the passive form of the verbs in brackets.

Putting mineral water into bottles is quick. When the water comes out of the ground, it ¹ is taken (take) just a few metres to a 'bottling hall', where clean bottles ² fill (fill) with the water. This ³ do (do) by a machine. A few seconds later, the plastic tops ⁴ put (put) on the bottles by the same machine. Next, each bottle ⁵ dry (dry) so labels can be stuck on easily. After that, the bottles ⁶ pack (pack) into trays and then they ⁷ wrap (wrap), before the cases of water ⁸ deliver (deliver) to customers.

4) TURN THE SENTENCES INTO PASSIVE VOICE:

- 1 I clean my room every day.
2 They don't organize the tournament at the local stadium.
3 Ann will sing a beautiful song tomorrow.
4 Ben could repair my computer. I'll ask him.
5 Our teacher didn't explain the rule for the game.
6 Christopher Columbus discovered America.
7 Robots will tidy up the house in the future.
8 People have wasted lots of electricity recently.
9 The government hasn't introduced new rules about the environment yet.
10 Our team might win the match.

5) TURN FROM THE PASSIVE TO THE ACTIVE:

- 1 Sometimes, turtles can be accidentally caught in fishermen's nets.
- 2 Many rare animals were killed last year by hunters.
- 3 In lots of countries, electricity has been produced using sunlight.
- 4 About eleven percent of land around the world is used to grow food.
- 5 A long time ago, I was told that eating too much sugar can be unhealthy.
- 6 Are the new rules about the environment followed by companies?
- 7 The contract will be signed by the manager.

