



PASSIVE VOICE 3.32

1. The movie **is based** on a famous book.
2. The house **was built** in the 16th century.
3. The castle **has been visited** by thousands of tourists.
4. The tower **was designed** by a famous architect.
5. Where **is** it **being filmed**?
6. Who **was** it **written** by?

1. Listen to the interview.

Presenter: Good afternoon, and welcome to another edition of *Science Today*. On today's programme we are going to hear about women inventors. When we think of famous inventors, we usually think of men, people like Alexander Graham Bell, Guglielmo Marconi, Thomas Edison. But, as Sally will tell us, many of the things that make our lives easier today were invented by women.

Sally: That's absolutely right. Let's take the **dishwasher** for example. This was invented by a woman named Josephine Cochrane in 1886. She was a rich American who gave a lot of dinner parties. But she was annoyed that her servants used to break plates and glasses when they were



washing the dishes after a party. So, Josephine decided to try and invent a machine which could wash a lot of plates and glasses safely. Apparently, she said, 'If nobody else is going to invent a dishwasher, then I will!' She designed the machine, and then she found a company to make it. At first only hotels and restaurants bought Josephine's new machine, but today the dishwasher is used by millions of people all over the world.

The car was invented by a man, but it was a woman, Mary Anderson, who in 1903 solved one of the biggest problems of driving. Until her invention it was impossible for drivers to see where they were going when it was raining or snowing. They had to open their window. The name of Mary's invention?

Windshield wipers.

An invention that definitely improved the lives of millions of people was



disposable diapers. They were invented by a woman called Marion Donovan. Her father and uncle were inventors, and when she had young children she sat down and invented a diaper that you could use and then throw away. Anybody who has a small baby will know what a big difference disposable diapers make to our

lives. But although she invented it in 1950, it wasn't until 1961 that an American company bought Marion's idea. Today more than 55 million disposable diapers are used every day and Marion's invention has been made more eco-friendly. Now you can buy biodegradable diapers!

And now to our next inventor. In 1956, Bette Nesmith Graham was working as a secretary. Like all secretaries at that time, she used to get very frustrated and angry when she made typing mistakes. In those days if you

made a mistake, you had to get a new sheet of paper and start again from the beginning. Then she had a brilliant idea, which was to use a white liquid to paint over mistakes. Her invention is called "wite out" today. Mrs Graham was a divorced mother, and her invention made her a very rich woman. Her son, Mike Nesmith became a famous pop star- he was a member of the American group, The Monkeys.



And finally ... policemen, soldiers, and politicians all over the world are protected by something that was invented by a woman. In 1966 Stephanie Kwolek invented Kevlar, a special material which was very light, but incredibly strong, much stronger than metal. This material is used to make bullet-proof vests. Stephanie's invention has probably saved thousands of lives.



Presenter: Thank you very much Sally, so ... if you thought that everything was invented by men, think again.