

Grammar Present Simple and Past Simple passive

1 Complete the sentences using the active or passive form of the verb in the Present Simple or Past Simple.

- 1 Our new website _____ (launch) last month and it has been very successful.
- 2 Stella McCartney _____ (run) her own fashion house.
- 3 The Dutch plant _____ (build) in just over twelve months and opened in May.
- 4 Hundreds of aircraft _____ (make) by Boeing every year.
- 5 They _____ (recommend) contacting them by email, but I never got a reply.
- 6 When they arrived at the hotel, they _____ (give) the wrong room.
- 7 During the storm, all flights to New York _____ (divert) to Washington.
- 8 It _____ (think) that there are more phones than people in the world.

2 Read the text and complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in the box. Use both active and passive forms of the Present Simple or Past Simple.

In 1996, Geert-Jan Bruinsma had the idea of connecting hotels and guests via the internet and founded a small company with this aim. From an office in Amsterdam he developed a website called Bookings.nl and for the next few years the company experienced steady growth. The growth was noticed by an American company now called Booking Holdings Inc., who acquired them in 2006 for just over \$130 million. Priceline kept the original management team and let them continue to develop the product. They were merged with another Priceline subsidiary called Active Hotels later the same year. Until then, most hotels got customers through travel agents but the arrival of this new business model changed travel for ever. Since then, Booking.com™ has become an internet phenomenon. It is said to be the largest advertiser on Google and is known as one of the easiest and most reliable websites in the world. Its webpages are translated into over 40 different languages and users book around a million room nights daily through the platform.

book buy connect found grow merge say translate

- 1 With Booking.com, hotels and guests _____ via the internet.
- 2 The original company _____ in Amsterdam in 1996.
- 3 Over the next few years, sales _____ steadily.
- 4 The company _____ by The Priceline Group in 2006 for just over \$130 million.
- 5 The two subsidiaries, Active Hotels and Bookings.nl _____ by Priceline in 2006.
- 6 People _____ that Booking.com is the largest advertiser on Google.
- 7 Booking.com currently _____ its webpages into over 40 different languages.
- 8 Around a million room nights _____ every day.

3 Complete the questions and answers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 A: When _____ ?
B: The company was founded in 1996. | 4 A: How much did Priceline pay for Booking.com?
B: They _____ just over \$130 million. |
| 2 A: How did the business grow for the next few years?
B: It _____ steadily. | 5 A: Who _____ with?
B: They were merged with Active Hotels. |
| 3 A: Who _____ by in 2006?
B: They were bought by The Priceline Group. | 6 A: How many languages _____ into?
B: Its webpages are translated into over 40 languages. |