

## GRAMMAR The passive

## Present Simple passive

The quote **is** never really **used** by Sherlock Holmes.

## Past Simple passive

The detective stories **were written** by a British author.

1 ● Complete the table. Write the verb forms and mark the verbs R (regular) or I (irregular).

Verb	Past Simple	Past Participle	Regular/ Irregular
ask	<sup>1</sup> <i>asked</i>	asked	R
build	built	<sup>2</sup>	
catch	<sup>3</sup>	caught	
chase	chased	<sup>4</sup>	
hide	<sup>5</sup>	hidden	
make	made	<sup>6</sup>	
see	<sup>7</sup>	seen	
use	used	<sup>8</sup>	
watch	<sup>9</sup>	watched	
write	wrote	<sup>10</sup>	

2 ● Choose the correct option.

- 1 The two robbers **was** / **were** caught as they were leaving the bank.
- 2 **Is** / **Are** a lot of science used to solve crimes nowadays?
- 3 **Was** / **Were** a secret microphone hidden under her clothes?
- 4 Sometimes ordinary people **is** / **are** asked to help the police with information.
- 5 Security cameras **isn't** / **aren't** used in the shopping centre.

3 ● Order the words to make sentences.

- 1 my / stolen / purse / pickpocket / was / a / by  
*My purse was stolen by a pickpocket.*
- 2 every year / a lot of / stolen / mobile phones / are  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 asked / she / questions / the police / by / was  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 some / reported / aren't / to / the police / crimes  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 your / car / when / stolen / was / ?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 ● Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first one. Use no more than three words.

- 1 They hid the paintings in their van.  
The paintings **were hidden in** their van.
- 2 A shop assistant caught the shoplifter.  
The shoplifter **was caught by** a shop assistant.
- 3 Millions of people watch crime dramas on TV.  
Crime dramas **are watched by** millions of people on TV.
- 4 Did they send the thief to prison?  
Was **the thief sent to** prison?
- 5 People steal a lot of jewellery from this shop.  
A lot of jewellery **is stolen from** this shop.
- 6 They didn't find the missing money.  
The missing money **wasn't found**.

5 ● Complete the article with the correct passive form of the verbs below.

create help know make publish solve watch



## The Belgian detective

The character of the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot **1 was created** by the writer Agatha Christie in the 1920s. Between 1920 and 1975, over eighty Poirot novels and short stories **2** **were published**. In the stories, Poirot sometimes works alone, but usually he **3** **is helped by** his assistant, Captain Hastings. Poirot always dresses smartly and he **4** **is known for** his neat moustache and his polite manners. He is very intelligent and believes that all crimes **5** **are solved** by using the 'little grey cells' in your brain.

In 2017, a new version of a Poirot story, *Murder on the Orient Express*, **6** **was made** into a film by the famous director, Kenneth Branagh. But even today, Poirot films from the 1970s **7** **are watched** by millions of people each year on TV.