

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Past simple passive

1  Complete the sentences with the past simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Tolstoy's novel *War and Peace* was published (publish) in 1867.
- 2 The world's most expensive violins were made (make) by Antonio Stradivari.
- 3 Facebook was started (start) by Harvard University students in 2004.
- 4 Is it true that some of Shakespeare's plays were not written (not write) by him?
- 5 Lots of my photos were lost (lose) when my phone broke.
- 6 Paper was not invented (not invent) in Europe but in China.

2  Write questions in the past simple passive.

- 1 when / first antibiotic / discover?
When was the first antibiotic discovered?
- 2 where / the world's first underground railway / open?
Where was the world's first underground railway opened?
- 3 where / the first modern Olympics / hold?
Where were the first modern Olympics held?
- 4 what / the first Pixar movie / call?
What was the first Pixar movie called?
- 5 where / the largest Egyptian pyramids / build?
Where were the largest Egyptian pyramids built?
- 6 when / the first email / write?
When was the first email written?
- 7 where / the first CD / make?
Where was the first CD made?
- 8 when / Google / start?
When was Google started?

3  Match the answers in the box with the questions in Exercise 2. Write sentences in the past simple passive.

1928 1971 1998 Athens Germany
Giza Toy Story London

- 1 The first antibiotic was discovered in 1928.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

4  Read the text about Stonehenge. Rewrite the underlined sentences using the past simple passive.

Who built Stonehenge and why ¹someone built it continues to be a great mystery. It is one of the most famous prehistoric monuments in the UK. ²Someone started the building of Stonehenge about 5,000 years ago. Some people believe that ³someone used Stonehenge in a celebration of the sun. ⁴Someone designed it in exact mathematical detail, as the stone circle perfectly matches the direction of the midsummer sunrise and the midwinter sunset. There are two types of stone at Stonehenge. The larger stones are called 'sarsens'. The tallest sarsen stands nine metres high and weighs 25 tons – ⁵someone carried the stones 32 kilometres to Stonehenge! The smaller 'bluestones' weigh much less, but ⁶someone brought these stones from Wales, a distance of 225 kilometres. Nobody knows how ⁷someone transported such heavy stones so far in those days.



- 1 It was built
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7