

3 Past passive



Language focus

Use a **passive sentence** to show interest in who or what is affected by an action, not who or what does the action.

*This tower **was built** hundreds of years ago.*

Also use the passive when it isn't known who did an action.

*The books **were stolen** yesterday afternoon.*

Form the **past passive** with **was / were / wasn't / weren't + past participle**. Use the preposition **by** to say who or what did an action when using a passive sentence.

*The Internet **was created** in the 20th century.*

*The first text message **was sent by** a software engineer called Neil Pepworth in 1992.*

*Don Quixote **wasn't written** by William Shakespeare but **by** Miguel de Cervantes.*

*Pyramids **weren't built** in England but they **were built** in Mexico.*

1 Complete the sentences with *was* or *were*.

- 1 The first email was sent in 1971.
- 2 The first telephone call _____ made in 1876.
- 3 My laptop and smartphone _____ made in China.
- 4 The rulers of Ancient Egypt _____ called pharaohs.
- 5 The Eiffel Tower _____ built in Paris.
- 6 The museum in our town _____ visited by 10,000 people last year.

2 Circle the correct verbs to complete the dialogue.

- Henry** Would you like to do this quiz?
- Catherine** Go on, then.
- Henry** All right. Don't look at the screen or you'll see the answers. First one.
True or false: the modern Olympic Games (1) *was* / *were* started by Pierre de Coubertin.
- Catherine** I know that one. It's true.
- Henry** Correct! OK, next one – the pyramids were (2) *built* / *build* by aliens.
- Catherine** Oh, come on! That's not a real question. That's false!
- Henry** Yes, you're right. Let's move on. Number three – the worldwide web was
(3) *created* / *creates* by an American.
- Catherine** Yes, I think that's true.
- Henry** No, that's false. It was (4) *invent* / *invented* by an Englishman. OK.
The Surrealist painter René Magritte *was* / *were* born in France.
- Catherine** That's false. Magritte was from Belgium.
- Henry** That's right! OK. This is the last one. The 2014 Australian Open tennis tournament
was (5) *won* / *win* by Li Na.
- Catherine** Oh, I've got no idea. I don't follow tennis. I'll say ... true.
- Henry** Yes! Well done, Catherine. You got four out of five.

3 Complete the sentences with the verbs from the box in the correct form.

win build open hold use give

- 1 Paper money was first used in China.
- 2 The 2016 Olympic Games were _____ in Brazil.
- 3 The Blue Mosque in Istanbul was _____ in the 16th century.
- 4 The Prado Museum in Madrid was _____ to the public in 1819.
- 5 The 2014 football World Cup was _____ by Germany.
- 6 The Statue of Liberty was _____ to the USA by France.

4 Last night there was a break-in at the New Academy School. Make the sentences passive to describe what happened.

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|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 Someone broke the windows. | <u>The windows were broken.</u> |
| 2 Someone stole the computers. | _____ |
| 3 Someone painted the walls yellow. | _____ |
| 4 Someone took all the sports equipment. | _____ |
| 5 Someone moved all the desks. | _____ |
| 6 Someone threw rubbish in the playground. | _____ |