Passive Voice in the Past



What is the passive voice?

We use the passive voice when we want to focus **on the action or the result**, not on who does the action.

Active: The focus is **on the person or thing** that does the action.

Passive: The focus **is on the action or on the object** that receives the action.

Example:

Active: The Disney brothers founded the company in 1923.

Passive: The company was founded in 1923 by the Disney brothers

- ***Structure***: To form the passive voice in the past, we use:

was / were + past participle



Examples:

The park **was opened** in 1955.

The letters **were sent** yesterday.

- ***Using "by" in the passive***

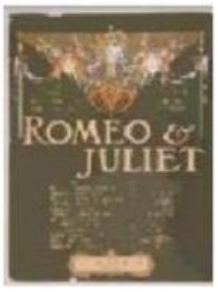
We use by when we want to say who did the action. If the person is not important or is obvious, we can omit it.

Examples:

The opening **was broadcast by** ABC.

The song **was written** in 2010 **by** Jhon.

The thief **was arrested by** the police officcer



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Exercise 1: Choose the correct option

1. The movie _____ directed in 2019. (was / were)

2. The emails _____ sent yesterday. (was / were)

3. The car _____ repaired last week. (was / were)

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

1. The book _____ (write) in English.

2. The houses _____ (build) in 2005.

3. The song _____ (record) last year.

4. The windows _____ (break) during the storm.

Exercise 3: Change from active to passive

1. People discovered America in 1492. _____

2. They opened the restaurant last month. _____

3. The teacher corrected the exams. _____

Exercise 4: Complete using "by" and a noun (*Picasso/ the earthquake/ the manager*)

1. The painting was created _____

2. The bridge was destroyed _____

3. The message was sent _____

Exercise 5: Active or Passive

1. The school was built in 1980. _____

2. They cleaned the classroom. _____

3. The prizes were given to the winners. _____

4. The chef prepared the meal. _____

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