

## NOTES

1. Active and passive sentences often have similar meanings, but a different focus.

## EXAMPLES

## ACTIVE

- Millions of people **read** the magazine.  
(The focus is on the people.)

## PASSIVE

- The magazine **is read** by millions of people.  
(The focus is on the magazine.)

2. Form the **passive** with a form of *be* + **past participle**.

- It **is written** in nineteen different languages.
- It **was published** in 1922.

3. Use the **passive** in the following situations:

- When the agent (the person or thing doing the action) is unknown or not important.
  - The magazine **was founded** in 1922.  
(I don't know who founded it.)
- When the identity of the agent is clear from the context.
  - The magazine **is sold** at newsstands.  
(We can assume that the newsstand owners and employees sell it. It is not necessary to mention them.)
- When you want to avoid mentioning the agent.
  - Some mistakes **were made** in that article on Bolivia.  
(I know who made the mistakes, but I don't want to blame the person who made them.)