GRAMMAR Past simple passive

1 Look at the example sentences from the article. Choose the correct words to complete the rule.

1 Everything was done for us.

2 Mum and I were flown everywhere in a private plane.

The past simple passive is formed with the [ ] of the verb 'be' plus the [ ] of the main verb.

UNIT 20 PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE

Past simple *be*	+ past participle
I / He / She / It **was / wasn't (was not)**	**given** a special award.
You / We / They **were / weren't (were not)**	**taken** to see a castle.

- We use the past passive to talk about what happened to something or someone.
  *This museum **was built** 150 years ago.*
  *Animals **were kept** in that building.*
  ***Was** St Paul's Cathedral **built** by Christopher Wren?*

1 Write complete sentences in the past passive. Remember to use *by* if you say who did the action.

0 This castle / build / a prince
This castle was built by a prince.

1 This photo / take / my sister.
_____

2 The cakes / eat / my friends.
_____

3 The Summer Palace / make / into a public park / in 1924.
_____

4 We / not invite / to Megan's party last week.
_____

5 We / show / around the library / the tour guide.
_____

6 You / not give / a present / your brother.
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1 Our school *is built* / *was built* in 2005.
2 I *am driven* / *was driven* to school because my dad's a teacher there.
3 My mum's mobile *is stolen* / *was stolen* yesterday.
4 London *is visited* / *was visited* by millions of people every year.
5 These sandwiches *are made* / *were made* last night.
6 That book *is written* / *was written* many years ago.

3 Read the questions and write answers that are true for you.

0 What's your best friend called?
My best friend is called Nick.
1 When were you born?
.....
2 What were you given for your last birthday?
.....
3 What fruit is grown in your country?
.....
4 When was your house built?
.....
5 How much homework are you given?
.....
6 How old were you when were you were first taught how to read?
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Find other examples of the past simple passive in Joe's post. How many examples tell you who did the action? Why isn't it always necessary to say who did the action?

Hi, my name's Joe and I'm 15. I want to tell you about something which changed my life. My mum always sang me songs at bedtime when I was a little boy. The songs weren't written by other people. They were all her own work. Anyway, Mum changed her job and it meant we had to move from London to New York. I was very excited but sad to leave my friends. When we were changing planes in Dublin my mum started talking to a man who worked for a record company. She told him about her songs, and he asked her to send him some of them. When we got to New York, Mum sent him some songs, and he loved them. A year later, her first album was released and it sold a million copies in a week! She recorded another and soon she was rich.

Our old apartment wasn't very comfortable and because mum had lots of money we moved to a really big apartment with a great view of Central Park. Then, our lives really changed. Suddenly, everything was done for us, our food was cooked by someone else, our apartment was cleaned, I was driven to school, Mum and I were flown everywhere in a private plane. I know it sounds amazing and it is, but actually I'd like to go back to my old life in London.

3 Write sentences in the past simple passive.

0 The guests / invite.

The guests were invited.

1 The clothes / make.

_____

2 The music / chose.

_____

3 The cake / decorate.

_____

4 The food / prepare.

_____

5 The presents / buy.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A CHANGING GARDEN

The Qing Emperor Qianlong **(1)** *designed* the Garden of Clear Ripples in the middle of the sixteenth century. But there was a war about 100 years later and people **(2)** *destroyed* some of the garden. So the Emperor Guangxu **(3)** *built* the garden and the buildings again and he **(4)** *gave* them a new name: the Summer Palace. Empress Dowager Cixi **(5)** *used* the Summer Palace. In 1924, someone **(6)** *changed* it into a public park.



Empress Dowager Cixi

Garden of Clear Ripples



Emperor Qianlong



Emperor Guangxu

4 Rewrite the text, changing the verbs in italics into the past simple passive. Decide if you need to say who did the action. Which of the four photos is best for the new text?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

5 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

1 It gave to me by my uncle.

2 My bike is stolen last year.

3 They were cost £25.

4 All those things are sold in yesterday's sale.

5 The school open five years ago.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRONUNCIATION | Sounds and spelling

6 Choose the word in each group which has a different sound to the other words.

144 In pairs, compare your answers. Then listen and check.

1	○ buy	○ boy	○ by
2	○ which	○ witch	○ watch
3	○ hear	○ hair	○ here
4	○ would	○ word	○ wood
5	○ know	○ now	○ no
6	○ meat	○ meet	○ met
7	○ own	○ one	○ won
8	○ their	○ there	○ they
9	○ toe	○ too	○ to
10	○ were	○ wear	○ where

7 In pairs, take turns to read these sentences aloud.

1. The boys went to buy some food in the shop by the river.
2. Did you see which witch had a watch?
3. Did you hear that? You can get your hair cut here.
4. Would you write a word on the wood, please?
5. I know there are no books there now.
6. You met Sophie at that café, but we can't meet there because I don't eat meat.
7. She won one of her own.
8. They arrived there in their car.
9. My toe hurts too much to put on those shoes.
10. Where were you yesterday? Did you wear that coat?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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All these things have changed people's lives. In pairs, discuss each one and decide how important it is for our lives today. Decide which is the most important. What other things would you add to the list?

DNA was discovered.
The internet was created.
Electricity was discovered.
The steam engine was developed.
Air conditioning was invented.



3 Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Use *by* when necessary.

0 Serena Williams won the singles gold medal at the Olympics.

The singles gold medal at the Olympics was won by Serena Williams.

1 Adam and Kevin Pearce set up the LoveYourBrain foundation in 2014.

_____

2 The president opened the new museum last summer.

_____

3 They opened the royal gardens to the public in 2002.

_____

4 My parents gave me this leather bag when I went to high school.

_____

5 Someone gave these expensive paintings to our local museum.

_____

6 Last year, over three million people visited the Empire State Building.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

1 My old shorts was eaten by my dog.

2 I am selling my little home in the centre of town. It was build 25 years ago.

3 My birthday party was very enjoyable. All the people were danced.

4 My mobile is fantastic. It were made in Mexico.

5 Do you know about my new flat? I was moved there two weeks ago.

LIVEWORKSHEETS