

Unit 12: Passive voice

The passive: present simple

We form the present simple passive by using the correct form of be followed by the past participle.

Active	Passive
They teach Russian at our school.	Russian is taught at our school.
We feed our cat twice a day.	Our cat is fed twice a day.



Write complete sentences in the present passive.

- 1 My shoes / made of leather.
.....
- 2 I / give money for my birthday.
.....
- 3 Rugby / not play at my school.
.....
- 4 English / speak all over the world.
.....
- 5 CDs / not sell here anymore.
.....
- 6 My brother / call Kieran
.....

We use passive verbs rather than active verbs when:

- we don't know who does the action:

Our school **is cleaned** every evening.

(I don't know who cleans it.)

- we are more interested in who or what is affected by the action of the verb than who or what does the action:

A lot of trainers **are made** in China.

(Here the focus is on *trainers* rather than who makes them.)

We **are always given** a lot of homework to do in the holidays.

(Here we is the focus, not the homework, or the teachers who give the homework.)

To say who does something in the passive, we use *by* + the person or thing:

English **is spoken by** most people in my country.

The TV show is very popular and **is watched by** three million people.

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

- 1 A lot of tea (grow) in China.
- 2 Millions of bottles of water (sell) every day.
- 3 Interesting films (show) at the cinema in my town.
- 4 Our furniture (make) out of wood.
- 5 The road (close) today because of the storm.



Complete the definitions with the present passive form of the verbs in brackets. Then write the correct word.

camera email address internet
keyboard mouse screen

- 1 Photos are taken (take) with this. camera
- 2 Films (watch) on this.
.....
- 3 This (need) to write on a computer.
- 4 Music (download) from here.
- 5 This (move) and it (click) to do things on the computer screen.
- 6 Messages (send) to you here.

Complete the text with the present passive form of the verbs in brackets.

WHAT IS *Instagram*?

Instagram is an app which

(1) (use) to share photos and videos with friends. It's easy to join Instagram; the app (2) (download) for free onto a smartphone and you then sign up using your email address or phone number. Often a real name (3) (not use) – a lot of people use a nickname. On Instagram, the people who see our photos or videos (4) (not call) 'friends'. They (5) (know) as 'followers' because they follow our posts. Many famous people (6) (follow) on Instagram. Some famous pop stars have over 100 million followers!



- 1 Complete the information with the present passive of the verbs in brackets.

FACTFILE

You Tube

Amazing information about YouTube

- 1 Every day, five billion* videos are watched (watch) on YouTube.
- 2 300 hours of video (put) on YouTube every minute.
- 3 Each month, YouTube (visit) 1.57 billion times.
- 4 YouTube (use) in 88 different countries and in 76 different languages.
- 5 About 20 percent of YouTube videos (start) but then left after ten seconds.
- 6 YouTube videos (see) on mobile phones over one billion times a day.
- 7 Over 3.25 billion hours (spent) watching videos on YouTube each month.

* 1 billion = 1,000,000,000