

The Passive Voice in Past



5 Make these sentences passive.

a. A virus infected my computer last month.

b. The hurricane demolished the house two weeks ago.

c. Someone threw away the letters by mistake.

d. The cook prepared a nice dinner yesterday.

6 Read the text and fill in the spaces with the correct form of the Past Simple Passive.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones **(a)** _____ **(develop)** throughout the 20th century. In 1908, an American power company claimed that they had created a wireless phone. The company **(b)** _____ **(accuse)** of fraud, but later the accusation **(c)** _____ **(drop)**.

In 1949, an American company called AT&T **(d)** _____ **(start)** in St. Louis, Missouri. There were about 5,000 customers and about 30,000 calls **(e)** _____ **(make)** per week.

At that time, the phones were still not mobile, so the equipment for making these calls **(f)** _____ **(measure)** at about 35 kg and had to stay in your house.

Later, several other wireless networks **(g)** _____ **(start)** in Europe, but they weren't compatible with American networks. Service **(h)** _____ **(add)** throughout the rest of Europe shortly afterwards.

The idea of cellular towers **(i)** _____ **(introduce)** next. At first, each mobile phone **(j)** _____ **(limit)** to service by only one cell tower. Then, as new technology **(k)** _____ **(create)**, people **(l)** _____ **(allow)** to transfer their service from tower to tower.

In 1973, the first hand-held, truly mobile cellular phone **(m)** _____ **(invent)**. Since then, the technology has grown faster and faster until today, mobile phones are so common that nobody thinks about them twice.

Taken and adapted from: <https://bit.ly/20KuRQ4>

? Write full sentences using the Past Simple Passive.

- a. Harry Potter / write / 1997 _____
- b. the first email / send / 1973 _____
- c. the first space shuttle / launch / 1981 _____
- d. the Eiffel Tower / build / 1887 _____
- e. atoms / discover / in 1897 _____

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