

# simple past passive *I was stopped by a policeman.*

|                                              |                        |                           |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| +                                            | I <b>was</b> woken     | you <b>were</b> woken     | he/she/it <b>was</b> woken etc     |
| ?                                            | <b>was</b> I woken?    | <b>were</b> you woken?    | <b>was</b> he/she/it woken? etc    |
| -                                            | I <b>was not</b> woken | you <b>were not</b> woken | he/she/it <b>was not</b> woken etc |
| For contractions (wasn't etc), see page 301. |                        |                           |                                    |

We use the **simple past passive** like the simple past active, for **complete finished actions and events** (see page 47).

This table **was made** by my grandfather.      **Was** the letter **signed**?      We **weren't met** at the door.

## 1 Complete the sentences with **was/were**.

- The fire ..... seen in Renton, a kilometre away.
- Most of the matches ..... won by Indian teams.
- These keys ..... found in the changing room yesterday – are they yours?
- We couldn't find the station, but we ..... helped by a very kind woman.
- I ..... stopped by a policeman in Green Road this morning.
- Yesterday a man ..... caught trying to burn down the Town Hall.

## 2 Put simple past passive verbs into these sentences.

- Our passports ..... by a tall woman in a uniform. (*take*)
- These books ..... in the classroom on Monday. (*leave*)
- I don't think this room ..... yesterday. (*clean*)
- We ..... at the airport by a driver from the university. (*meet*)
- Nobody ..... what was happening. (*tell*)
- He ..... away to school when he was twelve. (*send*)

## 3 Make simple past passive negatives and questions.

- 'We **weren't paid** ..... when we finished the work.' (*not pay*)  
 'When **were you paid?** ..... 'Two months later.'
- 'My father ..... in England.' (*not educate*)  
 'Where ..... 'In Germany.'
  - 'The letters ..... on Tuesday.' (*not post*)  
 'When ..... 'On Thursday.'
  - 'This ..... in butter.' (*not cook*)  
 'How ..... 'In margarine.'
  - 'My suit ..... in England.' (*not make*)  
 'Where ..... 'In Hong Kong.'
  - 'The restaurant bill ..... in cash.' (*not pay*)  
 'How ..... 'With a credit card.'

We use a past passive structure – **to be born** – to give somebody's date or place of birth.

*I was born in 1964. (NOT I born in 1964. NOT I am born in 1964.)      My sisters were born in Egypt.*

## 4 Write a sentence about your date and place of birth.

I .....