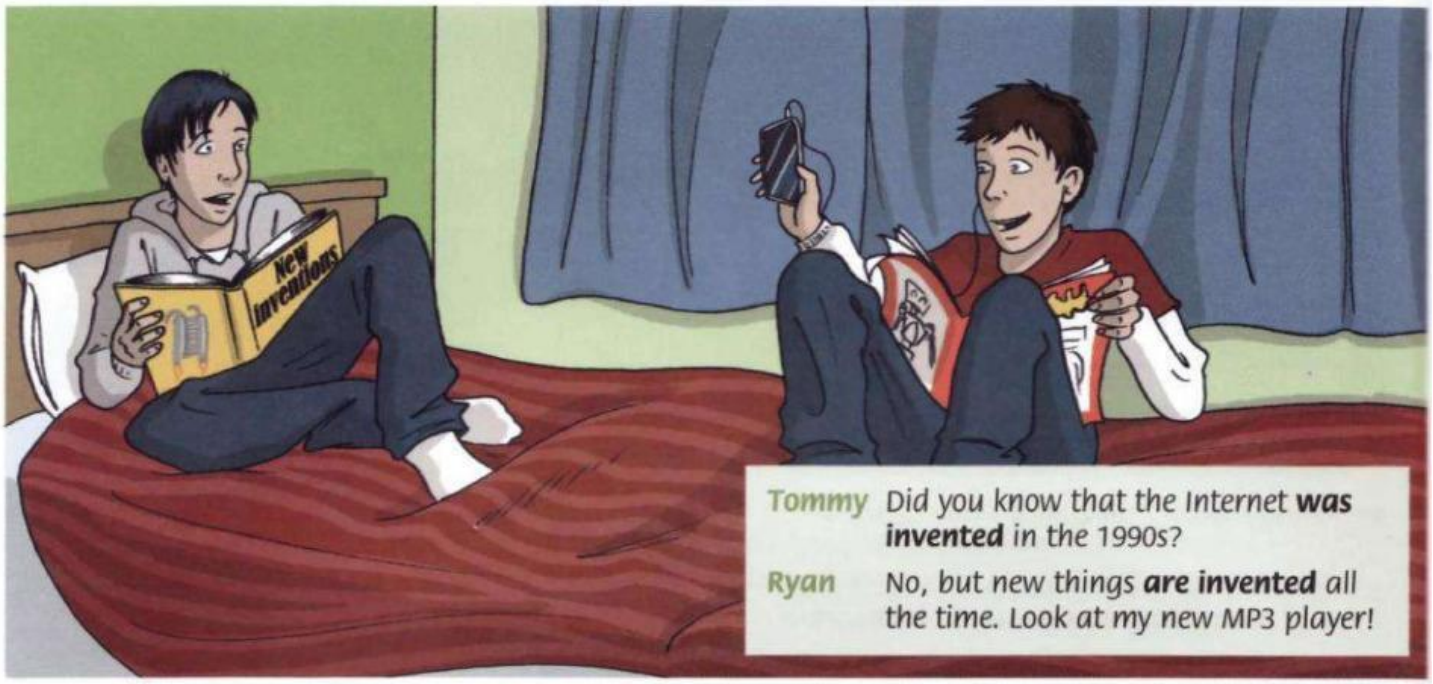
5 Making things

The passive (1): present simple and past simple
The passive (2): present continuous



The passive: present simple and past simple

We use the active form when we know the subject of the sentence.

*Farmers in Italy **grow** lemons.*

We use the passive when we don't know the subject of a sentence.

*Lemons **are grown** in Italy.*

We make the present simple passive from the subject + **am/is/are** (+ **not**) + past participle.

*A trophy **is given** to the winner.*
*Jeans **aren't made** of wool.*

We make the past simple passive from the subject + **was/were/wasn't/weren't** + past participle.

*The children **were driven** to school.*
*The books **weren't put** on the bookshelf.*

We make question forms with is/are/was/were (+ not) + object + past participle..

***Are** the children **driven** to school?*
Yes, they are.** OR **No, they aren't.

1 Are the sentences active (A) or passive (P)? Write A or P.

1 I was given a lovely present. P
2 She made me a cake. ____
3 She was made a member of the club. ____
4 Did you hear the news? ____
5 They have this celebration every year. ____
6 Do they play tennis on a football pitch? ____
7 The flamingos are fed every day. ____
8 Is bread made with flour? ____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Circle the correct answers.

1 Ice cream **is making** / **is made** from cream.
2 I **give** / **am given** my mum jewellery every birthday.
3 The plates **keep** / **are kept** in the cupboard.
4 Who **is** / **does** this information sent to?
5 How often **are the Olympic Games held** / **they are held the Olympic Games**?
6 My name **isn't written** / **doesn't write** like that.
7 Tennis **they don't play** / **isn't played** at our school.
8 **They are tested all cars** / **All cars are tested** before they sell them.
9 **Is** / **Does** paper always recycled?
10 Homework is **given** / **gave** to pupils every day.

3 Complete the sentences. Use the present simple passive and the verb in brackets.

1 Films aren't made (not make) in one day.
2 English _____ (not speak) in every country.
3 Blood _____ (pump) around the body.
4 Many people _____ (rescue) from the sea every year.
5 Cold drinks _____ (drink) in hot weather.
6 The road _____ (close) because of the flood.
7 Masks _____ (wear) during the parade.
8 The bandages _____ (not keep) in there.

4 Complete the sentences. Use the past simple passive.

1 The criminal was arrested (arrest) after the robbery.
2 The journalist _____ (not tell) the true story.
3 Strawberries _____ (pour) into the blender.
4 The files _____ (save) on a memory stick.
5 The game _____ (not play) in the rain.
6 The earth _____ (not hit) by a huge asteroid last week.
7 Our names _____ (write) on the parcel.
8 My shoes _____ (repair) very quickly.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Circle the correct answers.

1 Cakes **are made** / **were made** with sugar, flour and eggs.
2 The Fiat company **was started** / **were started** by some Italian businessmen.
3 The cake **was made** / **were made** by Grandma.
4 Many of the paintings in art galleries **were painted** / **was painted** with oil paints.
5 Many famous crime stories **was written** / **were written** by Agatha Christie.
6 The Mona Lisa **weren't painted** / **wasn't painted** by Picasso.
7 Often, modern buildings **are made** / **is made** with concrete.
8 These photos **were taken** / **is taken** with a very good camera.
9 Salad **was made** / **is made** with lettuce and tomatoes.
10 Jamie **was given** / **was gave** a present by his sister.

6 Write questions and short answers. Use the present simple passive or the past simple passive.

1 English / speak / in Australia ✓
Is English spoken in Australia? Yes, it is.

2 the pyramids / build / by ancient Egyptians ✓
_____

3 the book Oliver Twist / write / by Charles Dickens ✓
_____

4 cars / invent / in the sixteenth century ✗
_____

5 olive oil / make / with sugar ✗
_____

6 ferries / use / for carrying cars ✓
_____

7 New York / originally / call / New Amsterdam ✓
_____

8 many roads / build / by the Romans ✓
_____

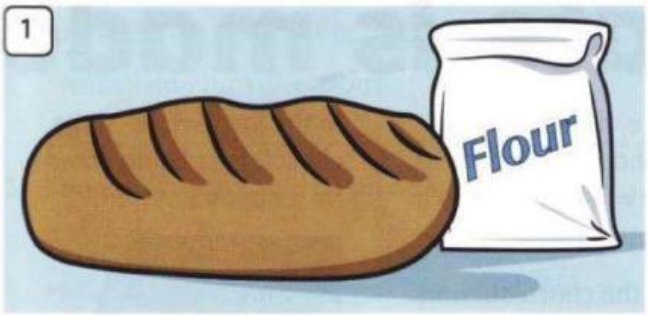
9 cars / drive / by children ✗
_____

10 soup / make / with vegetables and meat ✓
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7 Complete the sentences and questions. Use the present simple passive or the past simple passive of the verb in brackets.

1



Bread ___is made___ with flour. (make)

2

Many children _____ to school by car. (take)

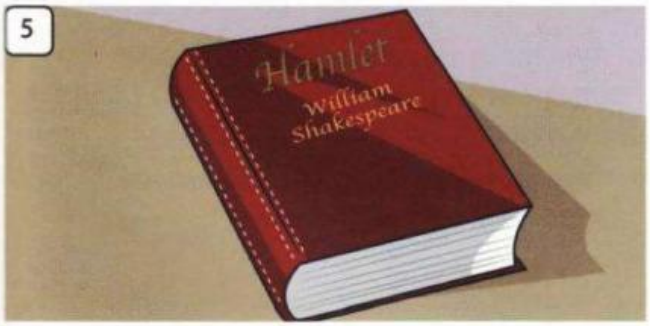
3

_____ the Eiffel Tower _____ by Gustave Eiffel in 1878? (build)

4

Grandparents _____ by their families. (help)

5



Hamlet _____ by Charles Dickens. (not write)

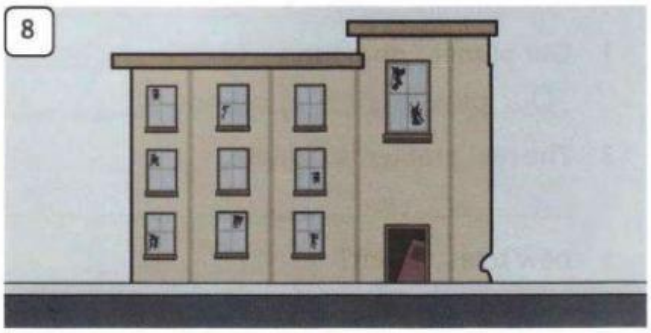
6

_____ the children _____ presents? (give)

7

4 Glass _____ with sand. (make)

8



That building _____ very much now. (not use)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

How chocolate is made

Chocolate is made in factories. Here are some photographs of how it is made.

In the first picture, you can see that the chocolate ingredients **are being mixed** together in a huge bowl.

In the second picture, the mixture **is being poured** into shapes by machines. Next, the chocolate will be cooled in a big cold room.

In the third picture, the chocolate bars have been finished and they **are being sent** to be packed.

In the last picture, some chocolate **is being eaten** – by a happy boy!

The passive: present continuous

We can also use the passive in the present continuous tense to say that something is or isn't being done right now.

*The car **is being tested** now.*

We make the present continuous passive from subject + **am/is/are** (+ **not**) + **being** + past participle.

*Everything**'s being packed** into boxes.*

We make present continuous passive questions from **am/is/are** + object + **being** + past participle.

***Are** the decorations **being taken down** today?*
Yes, they are. / No, they aren't.

8 Write statements and questions. Use the present continuous passive.

1 Our planet / damage.
Our planet is being damaged.

2 Too much rubbish / throw away.
_____

3 The real problems / ignore.
_____

4 the rainforests / cut down?
_____

5 new trees / plant?
_____

6 Too many cars / use.
_____

7 New houses / not build / quickly enough.
_____

8 Fossil fuels / burn / all the time.
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9 Change the active sentences to passive sentences. Use the correct form of the passive.

1 They sell stamps there.
Stamps are sold there.

2 She's giving him directions.
He _____

3 You don't play football on a tennis court.
Football _____

4 Pollution threatens animal life.
Animal life _____

5 We send most of our messages by email.
Most of our messages _____

6 They didn't put the photos in the photo album yesterday.
The photos _____

7 He rowed the boat from England to France.
The boat _____

8 You don't find tigers in Africa.
Tigers _____

9 You make a cake with flour, sugar and eggs.
A cake _____

10 She isn't sending a letter.
A letter _____

10 Look at exercise 9. Write passive questions and short answers.

1 Are stamps sold there? Yes, they are.
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS