

Passive exercises

I. Complete the text with the **Present Simple Passive** forms of the verbs.

China Central Television (CCTV) (own) by the Chinese Government. It receives some money from the government but programmes (pay) for with advertising money. It has thirteen different channels and these (call) CCTV 1, CCTV2 and so on. Programmes (make) in three different languages: Mandarin Chinese, Fujian dialect and English.

The most popular programme is the news, which (watch) by 300 million people every day. Soap operas are also very popular and the stars of the shows (know) to millions of people.

The English language channel is CCTV9. It has a variety of programs, including news, business news, documentaries and sport. For foreigners it is interesting because political issues (look) at from a Chinese point of view. CCTV (see) by many viewers in the USA.

II. Complete the questions with verbs from the list. Use **Past Simple Passive**.

call direct hit play receive save win build

1. When and where the Titanic ?
2. What the captain of the ship ?
3. How many warnings about icebergs by the ship?
4. When the ship finally by an iceberg?
5. How many people from the ship?
6. Who the film by?
7. Who the main roles by?
8. How many Oscars by the movie?

Here are the answers to the questions. Write the correct **Passive** sentences.

a, in 1911 in Belfast

b, Edward Smith

c, six or possibly seven

d, at 11.40 pm on April 14th 1912

e, about 700

f, James Cameron

g, Kate Winslet and LeonardoDiCaprio

h, eleven

III. Put the verbs in brackets into the **Past Simple Passive**.

1. An early form of cinema (invent) by the Lumiere brothers in the 1890s.
2. Their first film (see) by 35 people in a Parisian cafe.
3. The first talking movie, *The Jazz Singer*, (make) by Warner Bros in 1927.
4. In the same year, the world's biggest cinema (open) by Samuel Rothapfel with seats for 6000 people.
5. The first James Bond (play) by Sean Connery.
6. The James Bond books (write) by a British spy, Ian Fleming.
7. The 1981 American presidential election (win) by Ronald Reagan, a movie star.
8. For a short time, Fidel Castro (employ) by Hollywood studios as an extra.

IV. Write five sentences about a film/TV show.

film/TV program was made in (year, country), written by (author), shown on (TV channel), directed by (director's name)...

V. Choose **Active or Passive**.

The Earth *hits/is hit* by lightning 8.6 million times a day. Scientists say that there's a 1 in 3 million chance you will *hit/be hit* by lightning, but that depends on how much time you *spend/are spent* outdoors. Roy Sullivan, a park ranger from Virginia *hit/was hit* by lightning seven times in his lifetime. On different occasions he *lost/was lost* his toenails, hair and eyebrows. The final lightning strike *happened/was happened* while he was fishing and he *took/was taken* to hospital with chest and stomach burns.

VI. Complete the text. Put the verbs into the correct **Present Simple form: Active or Passive**.

The Simpsons is probably the most popular TV show in the world. It (watch) in more than 70 countries around the world. It's also expensive to buy. In the UK, Channel 4 (pay) £700000 for every episode.

The show's creator, Matt Groening, (write) other cartoons for TV and newspapers. In one episode of *The Simpsons*, we (see) Groening signing books. He (introduce) as the creator of the show *Futurama*.

The characters in *The Simpsons* (base) on Groening's own family. His father, for example, (call) Homer and his mother Margaret. The main characters (play) by a team of actors. It (think) that these actors (earn) more than £250000 for every episode. From time to time, famous Hollywood actors like Mel Gibson or Danny DeVito (star) in the show.

VII. Read these news stories and put the verbs into the **Present Perfect Active or Passive**.

Over 10000 people (take part) in a demonstration to protest
against the new income increase in petrol prices. At least sixteen people
(arrest) and one policeman (take) to hospital).

Monday's ambulance strike (call off). Union leader Kevin
Roberts (accept) the government's pay offer of 8%.

Scientists in Cambridge (find) the gene that causes asthma. The
gene is one of many allergy genes that (discover) by
researchers at Cambridge University.

Rock singer Heidi Sowter (just arrive) in the UK for her
first-ever tour of the country. Her first album, Perfect Ten, (already
sell) in over 4 million copies.

VIII. Put the verbs into the correct **Passive** form. You can use **any verb form**. Sometimes
more correct answers are possible.

These days, parts of Venice (flood) one day in three. People believe
the water will rise another 20 cms in the next 50 years. This means that Venice
(flood) much more often. A lot of money (already collect) for the
Save Venice Foundation and many buildings (now repair).
However, more money must (find) quickly and some people
don't think the city can (save). Most experts agree that if
important work (not do) soon, some of the world's
most beautiful buildings (lose) forever.