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Passive (1)

is done, are done

PRESENTATION a Form

Look at this sentence:

Nissan employs 130,000 people.

We can say this in another way:

*130,000 people **are employed** by Nissan.*

We make passive sentences like this by using the verb **to be** and the past participle (e.g. *broken, chosen, done, forgotten*). This is the present simple passive:

Positive	Negative	Questions
<i>I am employed.</i>	<i>I am not employed.</i>	<i>Am I employed?</i>
<i>You are employed.</i>	<i>You are not employed.</i>	<i>Are you employed?</i>
<i>He/She/It is employed.</i>	<i>He/She/It is not employed.</i>	<i>Is he/she/it employed?</i>
<i>We are employed.</i>	<i>We are not employed.</i>	<i>Are we employed?</i>
<i>They are employed.</i>	<i>They are not employed.</i>	<i>Are they employed?</i>

b Regular and irregular verbs

The past participle of regular verbs is the same as the past tense. Past participles end in *-ed*:

Verb	Past simple	Past participle
<i>print</i>	<i>printed</i>	<i>printed</i>
<i>export</i>	<i>exported</i>	<i>exported</i>
<i>service</i>	<i>serviced</i>	<i>serviced</i>

*Our books **are printed** in Singapore.*

*Most of our best fruit **is exported**.*

*How often **are** the machines **serviced**?*

Irregular verbs have different patterns:

<i>take</i>	<i>took</i>	<i>taken</i>
<i>make</i>	<i>made</i>	<i>made</i>
<i>forbid</i>	<i>forbade</i>	<i>forbidden</i>

*All our visitors **are taken** to the factory first.*

*This model **is not made** of aluminium.*

***Is** smoking **forbidden** in your office?*

You need to learn the past participles of irregular verbs. See the list on page 151.

c Use

We often use the present simple passive to talk about processes. This is because the action is more important than the person who is doing the action:

*Millions of items **are sold** on the Internet auction site eBay. Each item **is shown** on the website, and buyers **are asked** to send in bids. At the end of the auction, the item **is sold** to the buyer with the highest bid. Usually the seller **is paid** by Paypal, and when the money **is received**, the item **is sent** to the buyer.*

1 Form

Complete the dialogues with *am*, *is*, or *are*.

- 1 A: Excuse me, *are* you allowed to smoke here?
B: No, it _____ forbidden all over the airport.
- 2 A: These models _____ not manufactured in the USA, are they?
B: No, they _____ made in China.
- 3 A: When is payday in your company?
B: I _____ paid monthly, but some people _____ paid every week.
- 4 A: What happens after the interview?
B: Your application _____ discussed and your references _____ checked.
- 5 A: Do you produce the books here?
B: No, they _____ printed in Singapore and then they _____ shipped to Germany.

2 Regular and irregular verbs

Complete the sentences with the past participle of the regular verbs in the box.

appoint check ~~invite~~ manufacture receive

- 1 Every year our important clients are *invited* to a party.
- 2 Different components for the Airbus are _____ in France, Germany, and the UK.
- 3 We will send the goods as soon as payment is _____.
- 4 We have a main staff meeting every time a new manager is _____.
- 5 Our computers are _____ for viruses every 24 hours.

Complete the sentences with the past participle of the irregular verbs in the box.

give grow send spend meet

- 6 A lot of the world's coffee is _____ in South America.
- 7 Details of our latest prices are _____ on page 11.
- 8 As an international consultant, I am _____ all over the world.
- 9 As a manager, a lot of my time is _____ dealing with people's problems.
- 10 Most of our visitors are _____ at the airport by a member of staff.

3 Use

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

Roses are one of Kenya's most important crops, and Kenyan flowers ¹are exported (export) all over the world.

Some of the roses ²_____ (produce) in glasshouses, and others ³_____ (grow) in the open air.

When the flowers ⁴_____ (pick), they ⁵_____ (take) to cold storage rooms. Here they

⁶_____ (cool) to 1°C so that they will last longer.

The flowers ⁷_____ (pack) into flat boxes, and then they ⁸_____ (transport) to the airport in refrigerated lorries.

They ⁹_____ (fly) to Germany, the UK, and other European countries, where they ¹⁰_____ (sell) to supermarkets and other outlets.

Holland also has a large floriculture industry. Many of the roses that ¹¹_____ (import) into Holland ¹²_____

(repackage). Then they ¹³_____ (export) to countries like Japan and the USA.

OVER TO YOU

Write sentences about yourself. Say:

- 1 what you are allowed to do at work.
- 2 what you are not allowed to do at work.
- 3 what you are expected to do at work.
- 4 how often you are paid.
- 5 how often you are asked to work at weekends.
- 6 how often you are sent emails you don't want.

We are allowed to wear what we want.

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Passive (2)

was done, were done

PRESENTATION a Form

To make the past tense in the passive, we use **was/were** + the past participle:

Positive	Negative	Question
<i>I was employed.</i>	<i>I was not employed.</i>	<i>Was I employed?</i>
<i>You were employed.</i>	<i>You were not employed.</i>	<i>Were you employed?</i>
<i>He/She/It was employed.</i>	<i>He/She/It was not employed.</i>	<i>Was he/she/it employed?</i>
<i>We were employed.</i>	<i>We were not employed.</i>	<i>Were we employed?</i>
<i>They were employed.</i>	<i>They were not employed.</i>	<i>Were they employed?</i>

A: *Were you promoted last year?*
 B: *No, I wasn't promoted. I was transferred to a different department.*

b Use

The past simple passive is often used to talk about inventions, company histories, and other events in the past:

Cadburys was founded in 1824, when John Cadbury opened a shop in Birmingham selling tea, coffee, cocoa, and drinking chocolate. In those days cocoa beans were imported from South America, and John Cadbury produced a range of chocolate drinks.

Remember that we often use the past simple passive with the verb *be born*.
 wrong: ~~I am born~~ in 1975.
 right: *I was born* in 1975.

c by

In any passive tense, we can use **by** if it is important to say who does an action:
Our first Internet banking division was run by Maxine Arnould.

If it is not important, we can leave out this information.
The components were sent to you last month.

(We do not need to say that they were sent *by someone at the factory*.)

PRACTICE

1 Form

Complete the sentences with the past simple passive of the verbs in the box.

be born direct not/make add write establish

Picture A tells you that Sigmund Freud *was born* in 1856.

Picture B tells you that this film ² _____ by Alfred Hitchcock.

Picture C tells you that the book ³ _____ by Max Hope.

Picture D tells you that the conference centre ⁴ _____ in 1911.

Picture E tells you that the product ⁵ _____ from concentrate, and that no preservatives or other chemicals ⁶ _____ to the juice.

2 Use

Read about the history of Airbus. Complete the text with the past simple passive of the verbs in brackets.

Airbus *was formed* (form) in 1970 when the French company Aerospatiale and the German company Daimler-Benz Aerospace agreed to work together to manufacture large passenger planes. The two companies ² _____ (join) by the Spanish company Casa in 1971, and British Aerospace became part of the consortium in 1979. The first aircraft, the A300, ³ _____ (produce) in 1972. The first planes were very successful, and 55 planes ⁴ _____ (order) by different airlines, mostly European. However, in 1975, the company had serious problems, and no orders ⁵ _____ (receive) for sixteen months. The problems ⁶ _____ (solve) when the American company Eastern Airlines leased four A300B4s in 1977. The planes were very popular. The following year, 23 A300s ⁷ _____ (sell) to Eastern Airlines, and 46 more planes ⁸ _____ (buy) by other US

Airlines. This let Airbus into the American market, which at the time ⁹ _____ (dominate) completely by Boeing. In 2000, Airbus began work on the A380, the biggest passenger plane in the world. It ¹⁰ _____ (design) to have 555

seats, two decks, shops, bars, and even a gymnasium. When the A380 ¹¹ _____ (launch) in January 2005, 45 of the new planes ¹² _____ (order) by Emirates of Dubai at a cost of \$19 billion, making this the biggest deal in aviation history.



3 by

Rewrite the sentences with the passive. Use *by* if you need to.

- 1 Bill Gates founded Microsoft. *Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates.*
- 2 Where did you hold your last conference? _____ ?
- 3 Something delayed the project for three months. _____ .
- 4 In 2004, Banco Santander took over Abbey National. _____ .
- 5 People introduced rubber to Malaysia after 1900. _____ .
- 6 They built the London Eye in 1999. _____ .

Write true sentences about yourself and your company using the words below.

- 1 I/be born _____ .
- 2 My company/found _____ .
- 3 My department/set up _____ .
- 4 My boss/appoint _____ .
- 5 I/promote _____ .