



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Passive

Form:

We form passive verbs with the different tenses of verb to be + past participle.

Present simple:

Active: **clean(s) / see(s)** etc.

Passive: **am/is/are + cleaned/seen** etc.

Somebody **cleans** this room every day.

She **locks** the house every evening.

This room **is cleaned** every day.

The house **is locked** every evening.

Past simple:

Active: **cleaned/saw** etc.

Passive: **was/were + cleaned/seen** etc.

Somebody **cleaned** this room yesterday.

Somebody **stole** a lot of money last night.

This room **was cleaned** yesterday.

A lot of money **was stolen** last night.

Present perfect:

Active: **have/has done** etc.

Passive: **have/has been done** etc.

The room looked nice. Somebody **has cleaned** it.

The room looked nice. It **has been cleaned**.

Use:

1) We often use the passive when we do not know who or what does/did something.

*My car **was stolen** last night. (I don't know who stole the car.)*

2) We also use the passive when we are not interested in who or what does/did something.

*The factory **was painted** during the war.*

*Sarah **wasn't invited** to the party.*

In these sentences we are interested in the factory and Sarah, not who painted the factory, or who invited Sarah.

3) We also use the passive when we do not want to say who or what does/did something.

Active: *I **made** a mistake.*

Passive: *A mistake **was made**.*

4) By + agent

We sometimes use the subject of an active sentence as *agent* in a passive sentence. When this happens, we use *by* to introduce the agent in the passive. We only use *by+agent* when it is important to say who or what is responsible for something.

*The telephone was invented **by Alexander Bell** in 1876.*

*My brother was bitten **by a dog** last week.*

With + instrument/material

We use *with* to talk about an instrument which is used by the agent to do something. Compare:

*I was hit **with an umbrella**. I was hit **by an old lady**.*

We also use *with* to talk about *materials or ingredients*.

*The room was filled **with smoke**.*

*Irish coffee is made **with whiskey**.*

Exercises:

1. Choose the correct form: active or passive:

1. A valuable painting *stole / was stolen* from the Central Art Gallery last night.
2. The thieves *entered / were entered* the gallery through a small window.
3. Walt Disney *created / was created* the cartoon character Mickey Mouse.
4. This problem *discussed / was discussed* at the last meeting.
5. In 1964 Martin Luther King *won / was won* the Nobel Peace Prize.
In 1968 he *assassinated / was assassinated* in Memphis, Tennessee.
6. The president *arrived / was arrived* in Prague yesterday afternoon.
7. Glass *makes/ is made* from sand.
8. This room *doesn't use / isn't used* very often.

2. Complete the sentences using the passive:

1. Football _____ (play) all over the world.
2. Millions of cars _____ (export) from Japan every month.
3. The Tower of London _____ (build) at the beginning of the eleventh century.
4. How many languages _____ (speak) in Switzerland?
5. The washing machine was broken but it's OK now. It _____ (repair).
6. The washing machine _____ (repair) yesterday afternoon.
7. A factory is a place where things _____ (make).
8. The bridge is closed at the moment. It _____ (damage) last week and it _____ (not repair) yet.
9. All flights _____ (cancel) because of fog yesterday evening.

10. Somebody called an ambulance but nobody _____ (injure) in the accident.
11. Where did you get this picture? _____ (it/give) to you?
12. My car _____ (steal) last week but the next day it _____ (find) by the police.

3. Complete the sentences using the past simple passive of the verbs and by.

paint	compose and sing	invent	discover	direct
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Example:

The Old Man and the Sea was written by Ernest Hemingway.

1. Radium _____ Pierre and Marie Curie.
2. *The Goldrush* _____ Charlie Chaplin.
3. *Imagine* _____ John Lennon.
4. The safety razor _____ King Camp Gillette.
5. *The Chair* _____ Vincent van Gogh.

4. Complete the sentences with *by* or *with*.

1. These photos were taken _____ a very cheap camera.
2. These photos were taken _____ my sister.
3. The cake was made _____ dried fruit.
4. The cake was made _____ my aunt.
5. The garage was painted _____ a new kind of paint.
6. The garage was painted _____ a friend of mine.