

PASSIVE: PRESENT & PAST SIMPLE

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Focus on what happens to something rather than who does it.

1. READ: A community bike workshop

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Ivo: What happens to the bikes people donate?

Rosa: They **are checked** here first. Then any broken parts **are replaced**.

Ivo: Do you sell them?

Rosa: Some, but this batch **was donated** to a local school last month.

Ivo: That's great. Who runs the workshop?

Rosa: It **was started** by two retired mechanics. Now we've got twenty volunteers.

2. GRAMMAR: Be + past participle

Use a passive when the action or receiver matters more than the person doing it.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Present passive	am/is/are + past participle	The bikes are checked.
Past passive	was/were + past participle	The workshop was started.
Agent	by + person / group	It was started by mechanics.

Active: Volunteers repair the bikes. **Passive:** The bikes are repaired.

Mention the agent with by when it adds useful information.

Keep tense and agreement: A bike was repaired. Two bikes were repaired.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The doors is / are locked at night.
2. This bridge was build / built in 1950.
3. The bikes were repair / repaired yesterday.
4. Is / Are the room cleaned daily?
5. The keys wasn't / weren't found.
6. The books are / were delivered last Tuesday.
7. It was designed by / from a local artist.
8. Coffee is serve / served here.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Repairing donated bikes

Complete with the present or past simple passive. Use the time clues.

1. Donated bikes _____ (check) here every week.
2. Broken parts _____ (replace) before a bike is used.
3. This workshop _____ (open) in 2019.
4. Twenty bikes _____ (give) to a school last month.
5. Each bike _____ (test) before it leaves the workshop.
6. These wheels _____ (not / repair) yesterday; they were replaced.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Change to the passive.

Example: They clean the room. **The room is cleaned.**

1. They sell tickets online.
2. They built the bridge in 1980.

3-4: Make passive questions. Example: The room was cleaned. **Was the room cleaned?**

3. The parcels were delivered.
4. The office is cleaned daily.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write about a product, building or service: two present passives and one past passive.

Example: **Bread is made here daily. It is sold in the shop. The bakery was opened in 1998.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Describe how a product is made or how a service works.

Your partner asks **Where is it made?** or **When was it started?**

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A community bike workshop

Sample target language from the conversation:

Rosa: They **are checked** here first. Then any broken parts **are replaced**.

Rosa: Some, but this batch **was donated** to a local school last month.

Rosa: It **was started** by two retired mechanics. Now we've got twenty volunteers.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. are | 2. built |
| 3. repaired | 4. Is |
| 5. weren't | 6. were |
| 7. by | 8. served |

B. COMPLETE: Repairing donated bikes

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. are checked | 2. are replaced |
| 3. was opened | 4. were given |
| 5. is tested | 6. weren't repaired / were not repaired |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. Tickets are sold online.
2. The bridge was built in 1980.
3. Were the parcels delivered?
4. Is the office cleaned daily?

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: Books are borrowed here. They are returned at the desk. The library was built in 2005.

Teacher note: Omitting an unknown or unimportant agent is natural. Check irregular participles and singular/plural be forms.