



UNIT 2

THE PASSIVE FORMS

FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE ECONOMICHE, GIURIDICHE E POLITICHE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI

USE OF PAST SIMPLE VS. PAST SIMPLE CONTINUOUS

A

NTE p. 28

A nervous driver who went on a day-trip to Calais ended up in Gibraltar after a five-day mystery tour. Mrs Bright, a recent divorcee, was planning to go to France to buy some wine for a party to celebrate her divorce. However, as she was driving around Calais looking for the supermarket, she took a wrong turn and lost her way. Without a map, and unable to speak French, she was too embarrassed to ask for directions and eventually she found herself in Gibraltar.

1. Why did Mrs Bright want to go to France?
2. Why didn't she ask for directions?
3. Where was she driving when she lost her way?

*

Grammar | Past Simple and Past Continuous

Active grammar p. 30

Mrs Bright was planning to go to France ...

She was driving around Calais ...

- 1 Do the underlined verbs describe something complete or something temporary and in progress?
 - A We use the Past Continuous and Past Simple together to say that something happened in the middle of a longer action.
*I **was taking a break** in a café by the road when a taxi driver **shouted** for help.*
 - B The Past Continuous is often used to set the scene at the beginning of an article or story.
*This happened about eight years ago when I **was studying** for my degree. I **was feeling** a bit tired and ...*
- 2 Which verbs are not normally used in the continuous form?

The Past Continuous form: *was/were + -ing*

We use the Past Continuous to talk about what was happening at a particular moment in the past.

*What **were you doing** at 10 o'clock last night?*

We use the **Past Simple** for complete, finished actions in the past.

When the Past Simple and Past Continuous are used together, the Past Continuous refers to the longer, background action or situation. The Past Simple refers to the shorter action or main event that happened to interrupt it.

*I **was walking** through the park when the storm **began**.*

We use the **Past Continuous** for temporary actions and situations.

*I **was living** in Barcelona last summer.*

We use the **Past Simple** for longer or permanent situations.

*I **lived** in Berlin for ten years when I was a child.*

We do not usually use the continuous form with 'state' verbs such as *like, want, know* and *understand*.

Form of Past Continuous

Subject + was / were + verb+ing

Negation:

Subject + was / were + not + verb+ing

Information Question:

(WH) + Was / Were + subject + + verb+ing ?

Remember -ing spelling rules?

Verb ending in...	How to make the -ING form	Examples
(Most verbs)	Add -ING	<i>say – saying</i> <i>go – going</i> <i>walk – walking</i>
1 vowel + 1 consonant	Double the consonant, then add -ING	<i>swim – swimming</i> <i>hit – hitting</i> <i>get – getting</i>
1 vowel + 1 consonant + E	Remove E, then add -ING	<i>come – coming</i> <i>lose – losing</i> <i>live – living</i>
Final -ie	Change -ie to y, then add -ING	<i>die – dying</i> <i>tie – tying</i>

• Use 1:

Past actions that were in progress at a particular time in the past;
actions that were not yet finished at a past time

Erika's Schedule

8 – 9: had breakfast

9 – 10: finished her
homework

10 – 11: exercised

11 – 12: cooked lunch

12 – 2: shopped

2 – 5: talked to a
friend on the
phone

At **8:30**, Erika _____
breakfast.

At **9:15**, she _____ her
homework.

At **10:50**, she _____.

At **11:30**, she _____.

At **1**, she _____ lunch.

At **3**, she _____ to a friend.

• Use 2:

- Two (or more) actions that were in progress in the past at the same time (**simultaneous** actions)



- Use **while**
- *Examples:*



Sorry, I wasn't listening to you while you were talking.

While I was reading, he was writing.



- **Use 3:** Describe and set the scene; tell what was happening or was in progress when something else happened or **interrupted** a past in-progress action



See more



Use past progressive with simple past to describe an action that was interrupted by another action.



They **were enjoying** the morning when the thief **stole** the briefcase.



past

were enjoying

stole

now

future





Use past progressive for the action in progress. Use *when* and the simple past for the action that interrupts.



The man **was reading** the newspaper when the thief **snatched** his briefcase.



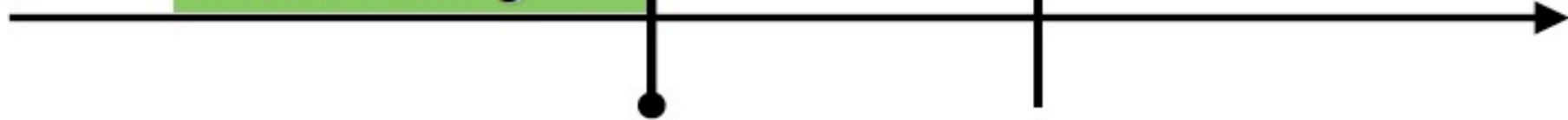
past

was reading

snatched

now

future





Practice:

Do you have a good memory?

Are you a good witness?

- **Directions:** Look at the following picture for one minute. Try to remember as many details as you can, but don't write anything.



One minute...



What do you remember?

1. How many people were there?
2. Where were the people?
3. What was hanging from the ceiling?
4. What was the bank robber holding?
5. What was the bank robber wearing?
6. What color was his hair?
7. What was covering the bank robber's face?
8. Was the bank robber right-handed or left-handed?
9. What was the bank manager doing?
10. What was the bank teller doing?
11. Who was walking into the bank?
12. What time was it?

One minute...



A little practice



1. The telephone _____ (ring) when I _____
(take a shower).
2. I _____ (eat) dinner when you _____ (come)
to visit.
3. It _____ (begin) to rain while they _____
(walk) home.
4. We _____ (see) an accident when we _____
(drive) on the freeway.
5. The driver _____ (not pay) attention to the cars in
front when he _____ (crash) into the red
convertible.

THE PASSIVE FORMS

A television that was around for King George VI's 1937 Coronation and survived the Second World War is now thought to be Britain's oldest working set.

The black-and-white Marconiphone 702 dates back to 1936 and is still in its original condition. It has a 12-inch screen and was manufactured around November 1936, the same month as the BBC television service from Alexandra Palace was first broadcast.

The set is likely to have screened landmark occasions including George VI's Coronation Procession, the 1948 London Olympic Games and the Queen's Coronation in 1953. When new, it cost 60 Guineas – the equivalent of around £11,000 today.

The set has been converted from analogue to digital, bringing it firmly into the twenty-first century. Jeffrey Borinsky, a consultant engineer from North London, entered a competition to find the country's oldest TV. He has owned the set for ten years. He said: 'I still enjoy watching my Marconiphone occasionally, especially cartoons from the 1930s, which the original owner might also have seen on the set. Now it is digital, it can be used for many years to come.'

The competition was set up in May by Iain Logie Baird, television curator at the National Media Museum in Bradford and grandson of the inventor of TV, John Logie Baird. He said: 'A small fraction of pre-War televisions still exist – many stopped working or were simply thrown out when a newer set arrived, and we know about 3,000 were lost in the London bombings.'

**Completely reliable ...
and built to last**

It was made over seven decades ago – and unlike modern gadgets it is completely reliable: it was built to last.

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- 11** Look at the Active grammar box. Complete the example sentences using the article on page 26 to help you. Then match the rules (A–C) with the sentences (1–3).

Active grammar

Present Simple	<i>It _____ thought to be Britain's oldest working set.</i>
Past Simple	<i>It _____ made over seven decades ago.</i>
Present Perfect Simple	<i>The set _____ converted from analogue to digital.</i>
Modal verbs	<i>It can _____ used for many years to come.</i>

A We use the active to describe what someone/ something does.

B We use the passive to describe what happens to someone or something.

We often use the passive to describe processes:

Then the glass is heated ...

and in more formal or written contexts:

It is thought to be ...

and to avoid saying who is responsible:

The washing-up hasn't been done yet!

C If we want to say who or what does the action in a passive sentence we often use *by*.

- The competition was set up in May by Iain Logie Baird.*
- Iain Logie Baird set up the competition in May.*
- The competition was set up in May.*

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- 12** Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first.

- In 1939 people could only receive one channel – the BBC.
In 1939 only one channel _____ – the BBC.
- In the 1930s a television was owned for ten to fifteen years.
In the 1930s people _____ a television for ten to fifteen years.
- Nowadays people replace their television every two to three years.
Nowadays a television _____ every two to three years.
- All pre-War televisions were made in Britain.
The British _____ all pre-War televisions.
- The Chinese make ninety percent of televisions now.
Ninety percent of televisions _____ the Chinese now.
- In 1936 people could watch the BBC for just two hours a day.
In 1936 the BBC _____ for just two hours a day.

TENSE

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

Present Simple

I **make** a cake

A cake **is** made

Present Contin.

I'm **making** a cake

A cake **is being** made.

Past Simple

I **made** a cake.

A cake **was** made.

Past Continuous

I **was making** a cake.

A cake **was being** made.

Present Perfect

I **have made** a cake

A cake **has been** made.

Past Perfect

I **had made** a cake.

A cake **had been** made.

Future Simple

I **will** make a cake.

A cake **will be** made.

Future be going to

I'm **going to** make a cake.

A cake **is going to be** made.

Modal

I **must** make a cake.

A cake **must be** made.

Modal Perfect

I **should have** made a cake.

A cake **should have been** made.

Passive voice - Test 1

A - Are the sentences written in Active or Passive?

1) Steven likes to play baseball.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

2) Bingo is played in Britain.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

3) He lost his keys yesterday.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

4) A letter was written.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

5) They are listening to their music.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

6) They often read e-mails.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

7) These cars are produced in Italy.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

8) French is spoken in Niger.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

9) Lots of houses were destroyed.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

10) The bus driver was hurt.

- a) Active
- b) Passive

C - Rewrite the Active sentences into Passive.

1) They understand Spanish.

2) My friend bought a new car.

3) John cleaned the bathroom.

4) The teacher closes the window.

5) The girls can play handball.

6) Our dog did not bite the cat.

D - Rewrite the Passive sentences into Active.

1) The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

2) This book was written by an Irishman.

3) The president was elected by the people.

4) The bag was packed by his mother.

5) The child was hit by a car.

6) The exercise is completed by the teacher.

Passive voice: mixed tenses - exercise 4

Exercise 4 - Present perfect vs past perfect

Write these sentences in passive forms.

1. Look. They haven't changed anything in this room.

Look. Nothing

2. I realized that they had misunderstood my idea.

I realized that my idea

3. Nobody informed me that the director had postponed the meeting.

Nobody informed me that the

4. Listen. McDonald's have offered you the job.

Listen.

5. My partners accepted my proposal after they had considered it carefully.

My partners accepted my proposal after carefully.

6. I left the restaurant because nobody had served me for half an hour.

I left the restaurant because for half an hour.

7. The parcel should arrive tomorrow. We have already sent it.

The parcel should arrive tomorrow.

8. Why have teenagers chosen coca-cola as a number one drink?

Why as a number one drink?

Exercise 1 - Present simple vs present continuous

German in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. (speak)

In most countries cigarettes to anyone under 18. (not sell)

Two films at the cinema at the moment. (show)

Every year millions of people for cancer. (treat)

Don't switch off the computer. New updates
(install)

GPS: Wait a moment. Your new route
(calculate)

It to take photos inside. (forbid)

Your room will be available at 10 o'clock. It

Complete the conversation with Steve Hobs, the manager at Grapple Phones.

Interviewer: Your new Smartphone Z now. (sell) Does it bring any new features?

Steve Hobs: Yes, it does. Smartphone Z last week (launch) with all the revolutionary features which (develop) for the previous Smartphone Y. And two new functionalities now to generation Z. (add)

Interviewer: Could you give us more details?

Steve Hobs: There is no home button in Smartphone Z. The home screen (access) by tapping on the screen.

Interviewer: And the second functionality?

Steve Hobs: Unlocking the device (done) with a new voice recognition system. It means that your phone can recognize your voice and it unlocks if you ask it to do so.

Interviewer: It is something like the facial recognition system in other phones.

Steve Hobs: Exactly. But the voice recognition system (design) for Smartphone Z because your voice, unlike your face, never changes.

Interviewer: Are you planning any other revolutionary features for the next generation of your smartphones?

Steve Hobs: Next year we want to release a phone which, apart from other functions, (use) as a microwave oven.

Interviewer: Pardon?

B - Make Passive forms from the given phrases. Mind the tenses in brackets.

- 1) English - to speak (Simple Present) _____
- 2) films - to watch (Simple Present) _____
- 3) posters - to make (Simple Present) _____
- 4) stories - to tell (Simple Present) _____
- 5) computer games - to buy (Simple Present) _____
- 6) books - to write (Simple Past) _____
- 7) volleyball - to play (Simple Past) _____
- 8) songs - to sing (Simple Past) _____
- 9) skateboards - to ride (Simple Past) _____
- 10) a prize - to win (Simple Past) _____