

Activity Type

Grammar Exercises:
gap-fill, writing sentences
from prompts

Focus

Past simple passive

Aim

To learn and practice the
past simple passive.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
two-page worksheet for
each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is a past simple passive worksheet for intermediate students.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students start by completing sentences with the past simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. were fed | 7. was fixed |
| 2. was built | 8. was repaired |
| 3. were watered | 9. was created |
| 4. was lifted | 10. was stolen |
| 5. was hurt | 11. were made |
| 6. were taught | 12. was served |

Next, students change past simple active sentences to past simple passive sentences.

Exercise B - Possible answers

1. The match was cancelled.
2. The decorations were put up.
3. Some salad was made.
4. The light was turned off.
5. The wrong wall was painted.
6. The man was given some food.
7. The meal was paid for.
8. Some apples were already picked.
9. He was told off for breaking the rules.
10. The washing line was broken.
11. My bags were packed and I was ready to leave.
12. She was contacted about winning the prize.

(continued on the next page)

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

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Procedure continued

Students then write out newspaper headlines as complete active or passive past simple sentences.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. Southampton was named the best university city in the UK. (passive)
2. Beyonce won a best female singer award at a music event. (active)
3. An entire town was swept away by a tropical storm. (passive)
4. A man was saved by his dog in a house fire. (passive)
5. A baby was stolen at a park. (passive)
6. A cruise ship sank off the French coast. (active)
7. A priceless painting was stolen from an Amsterdam gallery. (passive)
8. A CEO was forced to quit over allegations. (passive)
9. Some youths damaged a famous monument in Madrid on Saturday. (active)
10. A girl was found safe after being missing for 10 days. (passive)

Lastly, students write newspaper headlines in the past simple passive that correspond to pictures.

Exercise D - Possible answers may include these phrases

1. a bank was robbed / man was arrested/caught
2. a competition was won
3. a statue was/jewels were stolen
4. a fire was started

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

A. Complete the sentences with the past simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

1. The cats (feed) outside.
2. The museum (build) in 1762.
3. These plants (water) earlier.
4. She (lift) into the air.
5. He (hurt) in a car accident.
6. The students (teach) by someone else.
7. The sink (fix) by the plumber.
8. My phone (repair) 2 months ago.
9. The sculpture (create) by a famous artist.
10. My car (steal) yesterday.
11. They (make) to clean up the mess.
12. The banquet (serve) on a long dining table.



B. Change the past simple active sentences to past simple passive sentences.

1. He cancelled the match.
2. They put up the decorations.
3. We made some salad.
4. He turned off the light.
5. You painted the wrong wall.
Some food was given to the man by her.
6. She gave some food to the man.
The meal was paid by her.
7. She paid for the meal.
Some apples were already picked by my daughter.
8. My daughter already picked some apples.
He was told off by him for breaking the rules .
9. He told him off for breaking the rules.
The washing line was broken by the storm.
10. The storm broke the washing line.
My bags were packed by me, (and I was ready to leave).
11. I packed my bags and was ready to leave.
She was contacted by them about winning the prize.
12. They contacted her about winning the prize.

C. Write out the following newspaper headlines as complete active or passive past simple sentences.

1. Southampton named best university city in UK

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2. Beyonce won best female singer award at music event

.....

3. Entire town swept away by tropical storm

.....

4. Man saved by his dog in house fire

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5. Baby stolen at park

.....

6. Cruise ship sank off French coast

.....

7. Priceless painting stolen from Amsterdam gallery

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8. CEO forced to quit over allegations

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9. Youths damaged famous monument in Madrid on Saturday

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10. Girl found safe after missing for 10 days

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D. Write a newspaper headline in the past simple passive for each picture.

1.



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2.



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3.



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4.



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