

Simple past passive

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

- Liquid Paper® was _____ (invent) by Bessie Nesmith in 1951.
- Penicillin was _____ (discover) by Alexander Fleming.
- The first telegraph system was _____ (build) by Samuel Morse in 1835.
- The first radio transmission across the Atlantic was _____ (make) on December 12, 1901.
- The World Wide Web was _____ (launch) in 1990 after Tim Berners-Lee created the first browser.
- The first commercial cell phones were _____ (sell) by NTT in Japan in 1979.

Remember

- The simple past passive is formed with the past tense of the verb *be* (i.e. *was* and *were*) + past participle:
*The first real aeroplane was **built** in 1903.*
- We use *by* + noun when we want to say who does the action:
*The first real aeroplane was flown **by** Orville and Wilbur Wright.*

2 Choose the correct word. Be careful! Not all the sentences are passive.

Most people think the electric light bulb (1) *invented / was invented* by Thomas Edison. In fact, it was Humphry Davy who (2) *invented / was invented* it in 1800.

In 1655, Huygens (3) *discovered / was discovered* Titan, the largest moon of Saturn.

The first microwave ovens (4) *produced / were produced* by The Raytheon Corporation in 1954.

In 1928, the color TV (5) *developed / was developed* by John Logie Baird. Two years later, he (6) *made / was made* the first public TV broadcast.

The first book in English (7) *printed / was printed* in about 1474 by William Caxton.

The first designs of a submarine (8) *made / were made* by Leonardo da Vinci.

3 Rewrite the sentences using the passive.

Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first aeroplane.

The first aeroplane *was flown by Orville and Wilbur Wright.*

- Marie Curie discovered radium in 1898.
Radium _____

- The Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids.
The pyramids _____

- Marconi made the radio popular.
The radio _____

- Erno Rubik invented his The Rubik's® Cube in 1977.
The Rubik's® Cube _____
_____ by Erno Rubik.
- Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*.
Romeo and Juliet and *Hamlet* _____

- Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*.
The *Mona Lisa* _____
