Grammar EXTRA!  Worksheet 3

Past simple passive

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

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

Remember
• past simple 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 colour 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 built and flew the first aeroplane.

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

1 Marie Curie discovered radium in 1898.
   Radium ____________

2 The Egyptians built the pyramids.
   The pyramids ____________

3 Marconi made the radio popular.
   The radio ____________

4 Erno Rubik invented his famous cube in 1977.
   The Rubik’s® cube ____________ by Erno Rubik.

5 Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet.
   Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet ____________

6 Leonardo da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa.
   The Mona Lisa ____________