

# Worksheet 12

## Past simple passive

### 1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 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 mobile phones were \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) by NTT in Japan in 1979.

The past simple passive is formed with: the past tense of the verb *be* (*was* or *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 words to complete the sentences. Be careful! Not all the sentences are passive.

- Most people think the electric light bulb (1) *invented / was invented* by Thomas Edison, but 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 each sentence 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.

- Marie Curie discovered radium in 1898.  
Radium \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The Egyptians built the first pyramids.  
The first pyramids \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Marconi made the radio popular.  
The radio \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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- 4 Erno Rubik invented his famous cube in 1977.

The Rubik 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_