

1 Complete the article with the correct present or past passive form of the verbs in brackets.

One of the first music players, the phonograph, ¹ _____ (invent) by Thomas Edison in 1877. This ² _____ (follow) by the gramophone a few years later. The gramophone used flat records which ³ _____ (make) of glass at first, and then of plastic.

In 1906, the record player ⁴ _____ (introduce) by RCA Victor. In the 1940s, the composer and inventor Les Paul started to experiment with multitrack recorders. By the 1960s, most popular music ⁵ _____ (record) on these machines. Cassette players became popular in the 1970s. Cassettes ⁶ _____ (use) by many people to record their favourite songs from the radio or from records.

Today, smartphones ⁷ _____ (use) as music players and songs ⁸ _____ (buy) online. The popular song *Happy* by Pharrell Williams ⁹ _____ (download) more than 1.6 million times in 2014.



2 Put the words in the correct order to make present or past passive sentences.

Remember that we usually put adverbs before the past participle in passive sentences.

1 in 2001 / was / iPod / first / The / introduced

_____.

2 stolen / My / was / yesterday / laptop

_____.

3 radio / by / invented / was / The / Marconi

_____.

4 often / classroom / Tablets / our / used / in / are

_____.

5 always / This / phone / charged / at night / is

_____.

6 produced / Toshiba / are / in Japan / computers

_____.

7 are / of / Phones / plastic / usually / made

_____.

8 before / Our / never / switched / 9 p.m. / is / on / dishwasher

_____.

3 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Play 'Guess the country'.

Student A Think of a country. Make three sentences about the country, using the passive. You can use the ideas below or your own ideas.

- ... are / is produced here.
- ... was / were invented by someone from this country.
- ... are / is grown here.
- ... was born here.
- ... is spoken here.

Student B Try to guess Student A's country.

9B The passive (present simple and past simple)

Aims: To review the present simple passive and the past simple passive.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Tell students to read through the article first and ask them what it is about (a brief history of music players). You could then ask students how they listen to music (for example, on their mobiles, on an MP3 player or on their computers). Students then complete the article using the present or past passive form.

KEY

- 1 was invented
- 2 was followed
- 3 were made
- 4 was introduced
- 5 was recorded
- 6 were used
- 7 are used
- 8 are bought
- 9 was downloaded

Exercise 2

- Point out the reminder in the rubric. Ask them to find four sentences with adverbs in them (4, 5, 7 & 8). Students then put the words into the correct order.

KEY

- 1 The iPod was first introduced in 2001. / The first iPod was introduced in 2001.
- 2 My laptop was stolen yesterday.
- 3 The radio was invented by Marconi.
- 4 Tablets are often used in our classroom.
- 5 This phone is always charged at night.
- 6 Toshiba computers are produced in Japan.
- 7 Phones are usually made of plastic.
- 8 Our dishwasher is never switched on before 9 p.m.

Exercise 3

- If students have access to a library or to the internet, they could do some research. Alternatively, this activity could be set as homework. You could also get students, in groups, to pick a country and work together to write sentences about that country. They then get into pairs with a student from another group, read out their sentences and try to guess each other's country.