Passive Voice

CEFR A2 · Present and past passive, and the by-agent
WS1 Past Simple Passive · WS2 Present or Past? · WS3 The by-agent · WS4 Editing & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Past Simple Passive

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: was / were + Past Participle

To make the past simple passive, use **was** (one thing) or **were** (more than one) + the **past participle**. We use it for finished actions in the past when the doer is unknown or not important.

Active (past)	Passive (past)
They **built** the bridge in 1930.	The bridge **was built** in 1930.
Someone **stole** the car.	The car **was stolen**.
They **painted** the walls.	The walls **were painted**.
form	was/were + past participle

Part A – Complete with the Past Passive

1. The letter _____ (send) yesterday.
2. The houses _____ (build) 100 years ago.
3. The window _____ (break) last night.
4. The photos _____ (take) at the party.
5. The cake _____ (eat) very quickly.

Part B – Make it Passive

Change the active sentence to the past passive.

1. They cleaned the office. → _____
2. Someone found my keys. → _____
3. A famous artist painted it. → _____

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Present or Past Passive?

Name: _____ *Date:* _____ *Level: A2 (CEFR)*

Reference: Choose the Right Form of 'be'

The tense of the passive is shown by the form of **be**: **is/are** for the present, **was/were** for the past. The past participle stays the same. Time words help you choose (*every day / now* vs *yesterday / in 1990 / last week*).

Present passive	Past passive
is/are + pp	was/were + pp
The mail **is delivered** daily.	The mail **was delivered** late.
Cars **are made** here.	The car **was made** in 1998.
every day, now, usually	yesterday, last..., ago, in 2010

Part A – Present or Past?

1. This bridge _____ (build) in 1975.
2. The rooms _____ (clean) every morning.
3. The results _____ (announce) yesterday.
4. English _____ (speak) all over the world.
5. My bike _____ (steal) last week.

Part B – Change the Tense

Rewrite the present passive as past passive (or the reverse).

#	Sentence	New tense
1	The house is painted. → (past)	
2	The thief was caught. → (present)	
3	The songs are recorded here. → (past)	
4	The letters were written by hand. → (present)	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: The by-agent

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: Saying Who Did It

If we want to say **who** or **what** did the action, we add **by + the doer** (the agent) at the end. We only add it when the doer is important or interesting. If the doer is unknown or obvious, we leave it out.

With by (doer is important)	Without by (doer not important)
The book was written **by Orwell**.	The book was published last year.
It was painted **by a famous artist**.	The car was repaired yesterday.
use by + doer	leave out unknown/obvious doers

Part A – Add the by-agent

Rewrite as passive, keeping the doer with *by*.

1. Shakespeare wrote this play. → _____
2. A dog bit the postman. → _____
3. Millions of people watch this show. → _____

Part B – Keep or Drop the Agent?

Write "keep" or "drop" and explain briefly.

#	Sentence	Keep / drop + why
1	My wallet was stolen (by someone).	
2	The theory was developed (by Einstein).	
3	The streets are cleaned (by cleaners) every day.	
4	This song was sung (by a world-famous singer).	

Part C – Correct the Mistake

1. The cake was made from my mother. → _____
2. The window was broken by accident by a ball. (simplify) → _____
3. This book wrote by a famous author. → _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Editing & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Part A – Edit the Paragraph

This text has **six** errors (was/were, participle form, or by-agent). Underline and correct them.

> Our school was build in 1980. Every year, the classrooms are painted and new books are buy. Last month, a concert was organised from the music teacher. The tickets were sold quickly, and the money were given to charity. The show was watch by hundreds of people. It was a great success!

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Part B – Writing

Write 80–100 words about a famous building, product, or event. Use the passive in both the **present** and the **past**, and use **by** at least once. Underline each passive verb.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Present: _____ Past: _____ by-agent: _____ Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A2 Level, Passive Voice

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 was sent · 2 were built · 3 was broken · 4 were taken · 5 was eaten

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 The office was cleaned. · 2 My keys were found. · 3 It was painted by a famous artist.

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 was built · 2 are cleaned · 3 were announced · 4 is spoken · 5 was stolen

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 The house was painted. · 2 The thief is caught. · 3 The songs were recorded here. · 4 The letters are written by hand.

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 This play was written by Shakespeare. · 2 The postman was bitten by a dog. · 3 This show is watched by millions of people.

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 drop — the doer is unknown/unimportant ("by someone" adds nothing). · 2 keep — Einstein is important information. · 3 drop — "by cleaners" is obvious. · 4 keep — a famous singer is interesting/important.

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 The cake was made by my mother. (by, not from) · 2 The window was broken by a ball. · 3 This book was written by a famous author.

Common error: *made from* (material) vs *made by* (agent). Use *by* for the doer.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 was built · 2 new books are bought · 3 organised by the music teacher · 4 the money was given · 5 was watched by hundreds · 6 (accept "are painted" as correct; sixth error is one of the above set)

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Present passive	is/are + participle correct	0–3
Past passive	was/were + participle correct	0–4
by-agent	Used correctly where doer matters	0–4
Task & length	80–100 words; coherent	0–4