

10.1 Active and passive forms

GR10.1)))

- 1 Jaguars **are found** in South America, not Africa.
- 2 Henry VIII, the famous English king, **was married** six times.
- 3 The programme **will be broadcast** at eight o'clock tomorrow evening.
- 4 Modern furniture **can be made** of wood, plastic or other man-made materials.

- We form the passive with the verb *be* + past participle.
*Thousands of new websites **are set up** every day.*
*The business **was started** by James Davis in 1997.*
*Over a million units **have been sold**.*
*When **was the business started**?*
*Most things **can be bought** online these days.*
*Smoking is **not allowed** in the restaurant.*

Note that we form the negative of simple tenses by putting *not* between the auxiliary *be* and the past participle (e.g. *I was **not** asked*). For other tenses, *not* goes between the two auxiliary verbs (e.g. *The office has **not** been cleaned*).

- We use active verbs to describe what someone or something does.
*Perry Chen, Yancey Strickler and Charles Adler **started** Kickstarter.*
- We use passive verbs to describe what happens to someone or something.
Often the person or thing that does the action is not known, or is obvious or unimportant.
*Over two million dollars **was invested** in the business.*
*The product **is manufactured** in over twenty countries.*
- We use *by* if we want to say who or what does the action.
*Kickstarter **was started by** Perry Chen, Yancey Strickler and Charles Adler.*
- We often use the passive to continue talking about the same thing or person.
*Kickstarter is a crowd-funding platform. **It was started** in 2009.*

- 1 Complete the sentences with the passive form of the verbs in the box.

develop eat make order send ~~start~~ use

- 1 The first online retail site *was started* in 1994.
- 2 The internet _____ in the 1960s by the US military.
- 3 Today, the internet _____ regularly by over a billion people.
- 4 Billions of internet searches _____ every day.
- 5 The first mobile phone text message _____ in the late 1990s.
- 6 About three billion pizzas _____ in America every year, and most of these _____ online.

- 2 Complete the text about online shopping using the correct passive or active form of the verbs in brackets.

The first version of online shopping ¹ *was invented* (invent) in 1979 by UK businessman Michael Aldrich. His system, which ² _____ (call) Videotex, ³ _____ (connect) a modified TV to a computer using a phone line. In 1980, he ⁴ _____ (set up) a system which ⁵ _____ (allow) customers and suppliers to be connected so that business could ⁶ _____ (complete) electronically. During the 1980s, he ⁷ _____ (create) a number of online shopping systems, using Videotex technology. These ⁸ _____ (use) mainly by large corporations.

Online shopping ⁹ _____ (not/become) popular until the introduction of the World Wide Web in the early 1990s. In 1994, Pizza Hut was the first business to offer online ordering. Many other commercial websites soon ¹⁰ _____ (follow). Amazon and eBay ¹¹ _____ (launch) in 1995. Today millions of items ¹² _____ (sell) online every day.

- 3 Rewrite the sentences using the passive.

- 1 They started the business in 2012.
The business was started in 2012.
- 2 People invested over ten million dollars in the business.

- 3 They don't use the euro in Switzerland.

- 4 When did someone send the first text message?

- 5 The Chinese invented paper about 4,000 years ago.

- 6 People buy and sell millions of items online every day.

10.2 a/an, the and no article

GR10.2)))

- 1 What would you like, **an** apple or **a** banana?
- 2 **The** Shard is one of **the** newest buildings in London.
- 3 I can see **a** car in the distance. I think **the** car's red.
- 4 Football is probably **the** most popular sport in the world.
- 5 I became interested in astronomy when I was at school.

We use *a/an*:

- when something is one of many
*Have you ever been to **a** football match?*
*Did you have **a** good seat in the stadium?*
- when we mention something for the first time
*My town has got **an** indoor and **an** outdoor swimming pool. The outdoor pool is open only in the summer.*

We use *the*:

- when it's the only one of something, or the only one in a place
*I love **the** Olympics.*
*Can you close **the** door, please?*
- when we have talked about the thing(s) before
*Did you have a good seat in **the** stadium?*
*My town has got an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool. **The** outdoor pool is only open in the summer.*

We use – (no article):

- when we talk about plural and uncountable nouns in general
Some schools have banned (-) competitive sports.
I love watching (-) swimming on TV.
- in some common expressions after a preposition (e.g. *at school, at university, in hospital, in bed, to bed, on TV*)
*I was in the athletics team **at** (-) **university**.*
*I'm tired. I'm going **to** (-) **bed**.*

With *school, university, college, hospital, church, prison* and *bed* you sometimes use *the* and you sometimes use – (no article).

- You use *the* when you are talking about the 'physical' place.
***The** station is very old.*
*The football stadium is near **the** university.*
- You use – (no article) when you are talking about the 'activity' associated with a place.
I go to church every Sunday. (= I go to a religious ceremony every Sunday.)
What did you study at university? (= What did you do as a student?)

1 Choose the correct options to complete the conversations.

- 1 A Did you play any sports when you were at *the* / *(-)* school?
B Yes, I was in – / *the* school football team. I was *a* / *the* captain, actually.
- 2 A I think *the* / – competition is good for *a* / – child's development.
B I agree. But it can also have *a* / *the* negative effect if someone is always on *the* / – losing side.
- 3 A I think it's totally wrong that *the* / – celebrities get paid so much money.
B Well, they do give *the* / – entertainment to millions of *the* / – people. And also, they can have *a* / *the* short career, so they need to earn *a* / *the* lot of money in *a* / *the* short period of time.
- 4 A Is *a* / *the* game on *the* / – TV this evening?
B Yes, it is. I think *the* / – start is at 7.45. Are you going to watch it at *the* / – home or shall we go to *a* / – bar to watch it?
- 5 A Have you got *a* / *the* favourite sport?
B Not really, I'm not *a* / *the* big sports fan. But I generally like winter sports like – / *the* skiing and – / *the* ice skating. I always love *the* / – Winter Olympics.

2 Complete the text about the origin of the Olympic Games with *a/an, the* or – (no article)

1 The Olympic Games originated long ago in ancient Greece. One story about 2 _____ origin of 3 _____ Games concerns 4 _____ god Zeus. It is said that Zeus once fought his father, Kronos, for 5 _____ control of 6 _____ world. They fought at 7 _____ top of 8 _____ mountain that overlooked 9 _____ valley in south-western Greece. After Zeus defeated his father, 10 _____ temple and 11 _____ enormous statue of Zeus were built in 12 _____ valley below 13 _____ mountain. 14 _____ valley was called Olympia, and soon 15 _____ religious festivals were held there as 16 _____ people came to worship Zeus and celebrate his physical strength. It is believed that these religious festivals eventually led to 17 _____ Olympic Games. Although we do not know exactly when 18 _____ Games first took place, 19 _____ earliest recorded Olympic competition occurred in 776 BC. It had only one event, 20 _____ running race, which was won by 21 _____ cook named Coroebus. Over time, 22 _____ new sports involving running, jumping, throwing and fighting were added to 23 _____ Games. 24 _____ winner of each event received 25 _____ wreath of 26 _____ olive leaves and was considered 27 _____ hero. Only 28 _____ men were allowed to compete, and 29 _____ women were not even allowed to watch 30 _____ Games.