

Activity Type

Reading and writing exercises

Focus

Past simple active and passive forms

Aim

To use the context of news reports to practice past simple active and passive forms.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple passive worksheet, students use the context of news reports to practice past simple active and passive forms.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by changing past simple sentences from their active form into their passive form.

Exercise A - Answer Key

1. A diamond was found by Gerald.
2. Four goals were scored by both teams.
3. The story was written by a reporter.
4. Japan was hit by an earthquake.

After that, students read a news story and identify past simple passive sentences from the story, which they then change to their active form.

Students then move on to complete a set of news reports with the past simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

Exercise E - Answer Key

1. The diamond that **was found** in Bangkok last week **was sold** to a businessman from Dubai. A huge sum of money **was paid** to the man who found the diamond. The sewers of Bangkok **were overrun** with prospectors looking to change their fortunes.

2. In the Manchester United versus Barcelona match last night, four goals **were scored** by both teams. Rooney **was sent** off for kicking another player. However, most people who watched the match said that a better game **was played** by Manchester United.

3. Japan **was hit** by a 9.1 earthquake yesterday and a large tsunami **was generated**. Ten cities **were affected** and communications **were disrupted**. Fifty thousand residents **were evacuated** within four hours of being alerted, but five evacuation centers **were destroyed**. The roads **were ruined** making evacuation difficult.

Afterwards, the students practice reading the news reports with a partner.

Finally, the pairs of students create their own news story with the past simple passive and read them to the class.

A. Change the past simple sentences from their active form into their passive form.

Active

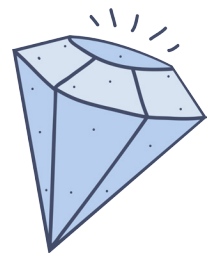
Passive

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Gerald found a diamond. | |
| 2. Both teams scored four goals. | |
| 3. A reporter wrote the story. | |
| 4. An earthquake hit Japan. | |

B. Read the news story.

Huge Diamond Found in Bangkok Sewer System

The largest recorded diamond ever discovered was unearthed beneath the streets of Bangkok last week. A 375-karat diamond was stumbled upon by a team of maintenance workers cleaning out the sewer lines last Friday night. According to witnesses, the diamond was found by a man called Gerald. "I was walking through the sludge when suddenly I tripped over an obstacle and fell flat on my face. When I reached down to remove the object, I noticed it had a very fine surface, almost like glass, but it was so heavy I thought that maybe it was a piece of concrete. When I looked at it close to the light, I couldn't believe my eyes", he is reported to have told his boss. Gerald was immediately taken back to his company's headquarters where the account of his story was confirmed. The head office of Gerald's company was inundated with friends and family wanting to know more about the diamond. After hearing media reports of his finding, Gerald fled Bangkok, not wanting to draw too much attention to himself. Attempts to find Gerald by police and local authorities have been unsuccessful. The diamond was reported to have been purchased by an unknown buyer from Dubai, going by the name of Mr. T. After collecting the diamond from Gerald, a private jet was chartered to fly Mr. T back to Dubai. The sewers of Bangkok have since been overrun with prospectors looking to follow the fortunes of Gerald.



C. Identify and write down four past simple passive sentences from the news story.

Example: A 375-karat diamond was stumbled upon by a team of maintenance workers cleaning out the sewer lines last Friday night.

1.
.....
2.
.....
3.
.....
4.
.....

D. Rewrite the sentences from Exercise C in their active form.

Example: A team of maintenance workers cleaning out the sewer lines last Friday night stumbled upon a 375-karat diamond.

1.
.....
2.
.....
3.
.....
4.
.....

E. Complete the news reports with the past simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

1. The diamond that (find) in Bangkok last week
(sell) to a businessman from Dubai. A huge sum of money (pay) to
the man who found the diamond. The sewers of Bangkok (overran)
with prospectors looking to change their fortunes.
2. In the Manchester United versus Barcelona match last night, four goals
(score) by both teams. Rooney (send) off for kicking another player.
However, most people who watched the match said that a better game
(play) by Manchester United.
3. Japan (hit) by a 9.1 earthquake yesterday and a large tsunami
..... (generate). Ten cities (affect) and
communications (disrupt). Fifty thousand residents
..... (evacuate) within four hours of being alerted, but five evacuation
centres (destroy). The roads (ruin) making
evacuation difficult.

F. Now, practice reading the news reports with a partner. Then, in pairs, create your own news report with the past simple passive and read it to the class.