

Past Passive

Point 1: The past passive uses the past participle after the be verbs **was** and **were**.

1. The game **was canceled**.
2. The meeting **was postponed**.
3. The bridge **was built** this year.
4. All of those trees **were planted** over 100 years ago.

Point 2: The past passive is useful because the original subject is not important, known or necessary to understand the sentence.

1. The game **was canceled** (by the officials).
2. The meeting **was postponed** (by the boss).
3. The bridge **was built** five years ago (by construction workers).
4. All of those trees **were planted** over 100 years ago (by somebody).

Point 3: The past passive is commonly used in WH-questions.

- **What was said at the meeting?**
 - Nothing important.
- **When was this built?**
 - It was built last year.
- **How was this dish cooked?**
 - It was fried in butter.
- **Who was fired?**
 - Bryon was let go.
- **Where was the conference held?**
 - It was held at a hotel by the beach.

Point 4: The past passive is commonly used in Yes/No questions.

- **Was the package sent?** (Did you send the package?)
 - Yes, it was.
 - No, it wasn't.
- **Were the documents proofread?** (Did you proofread the documents?)
 - Yes, they were.
 - No, they weren't.

Point 5: The past passive is commonly used in negative statements. In spoken English, the contraction **wasn't** and **weren't** is very common.

1. The rail station **wasn't** built until 1995.
2. The documents **weren't** proofread by anyone.
3. The game **wasn't** played due to the weather.
4. Those cars **weren't** produced in America.

Past Passive

Watch four videos using **the past passive** in conversation.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: When **was** this subway **built**?

Woman: It **was built** about 30 years ago.

Man: It still looks pretty new.

Woman: Yes, it **was remodeled** last year.

Man: Well, they did a nice job.

Woman: I'll say.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: What happened to the old stadium?

Woman: It **was torn down** last year.

Man: Why did they tear it down?

Woman: It **was damaged** by the hurricane three years ago.

Man: Oh, I remember that.

Woman: Yeah, a lot of damage **was done** that night.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Do you still go to that hotel by the lake?

Woman: No, it **was sold** last year.

Man: Oh, **was** it **replaced**?

Woman: No, it **was closed** and **hasn't been reopened**.

Man: Oh, that's too bad.

Woman: Yeah, summer at the lake hasn't been the same since.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Do you still play golf?

Woman: No, the course **was shut down** last year.

Man: Oh, that was such a beautiful course. What happened to it?

Woman: It **was converted** to a park.

Man: Well, at least it **was put to** good use.

Woman: Yeah, my kids love to go there now.

Quiz

Answer these questions about the interview.

1) The subway was _____ recently.

- a) built
- b) closed
- c) remodeled**

2) What happened to the stadium?

- a) It was sold.
- b) It was torn down.**
- c) It was remodeled.

3) What happened to the hotel?

- a) It was closed.**
- b) It was reopened.
- c) It was remodeled.

4) What happened to the golf course?

- a) It was sold.
- b) It was shut down.**
- c) It was reopened.

Gap Fill: Listen to the audio. Type in the correct word!

Conversation 1

Man: When was this subway **built/build**?

Woman: It was **build/built** about 30 years ago.

Man: It still looks pretty **new/now**.

Woman: Yes, it was **remodel/remodeled** last year.

Man: Well, they **done/did** a nice job.

Woman: I'll **said/say**.

Conversation 2

Man: What **happen/shappened** to the old stadium?

Woman: It was **tear/torn** down last year.

Man: Why did they **tear/torn** it down?

Woman: It was **damage/damaged** by the hurricane three years ago.

Man: Oh, I **remembered/remember** that.

Woman: Yeah, a lot of **damage/damaged** was done that night.

Conversation 3

Man: Do you still go to **this/that** hotel by the lake?

Woman: No, it was **sold/sell** last year.

Man: Oh, was it **replaced/replacing**?

Woman: No, it was **closed/close** and hasn't been **reopen/reopened**.

Man: Oh, that's too **worse/bad**.

Woman: Yeah, summer at the lake hasn't been the same **sense/since**.

Conversation 4

Man: Do you still **played/play** golf?

Woman: No, the course was **shot/shut** down last year.

Man: Oh, that was such a beautiful course. What **happen/happened** to it?

Woman: It was **converting/converted** to a park.

Man: Well, at least it was **put/putting** to good use.

Woman: Yeah, my kids love to go there **now/new**.

Corporate Vocabulary - Marketing and Sales

Brand: A type of product manufactured by a particular company under a particular name.

Target market: A specific group of consumers at which a product or service is aimed.

Campaign: An organized course of action to promote a product or service.

Lead: A potential customer or client.

Conversion: The process of turning a potential customer into a paying one.