



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Passive Voice in Science and Innovation

Science and Innovation | Present and past passive | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Name an invention that is used by millions of people.
2	Describe a discovery that was made by scientists.
3	What technology is developed to help patients?
4	Which inventions are tested before they are sold?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

How New Ideas Are Developed

New technology is not created overnight. Ideas **are tested** many times before products **are sold** to the public.

In medicine, new treatments **are developed** by researchers and then **are checked** carefully for safety. Some discoveries **were made** by accident, but most require years of study.

In space research, the process is just as careful. Space equipment **is designed** to survive extreme conditions, and data **is collected** from satellites every day.

3. Notice the pattern

Use the passive when the action, process or result is more important than the person who does it.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Present passive	am/is/are + past participle	Data is collected every day.
Past passive	was/were + past participle	The discovery was made by accident.
Agent	by + person/group	The device was invented by engineers.
Focus	process/result	New medicines are tested carefully.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	Scientists test new medicines carefully.	present passive	
2	Engineers designed the device.	past passive	
3	Satellites collect data every day.	present passive	
4	Researchers made the discovery in 2024.	past passive	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Explain how a new invention is tested before people use it.
Writing	Write a short report paragraph about a useful invention. Use at least three passive forms.
Reading	Underline passive forms in the context text and identify the tense.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	New medicines are test carefully.	
2	The device invented by engineers.	
3	Data is collect every day.	
4	The discovery was make in a laboratory.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Which invention is used most often in your daily life?
2. Should new technology be tested for a long time before it is sold?
3. How are robots used in medicine or science?
4. What discoveries were made in the past that changed the world?

Passive Voice in Science and Innovation

4. Build accurate sentences

1. New medicines are tested carefully.
2. The device was designed by engineers.
3. Data is collected by satellites every day.
4. The discovery was made by researchers in 2024.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. New medicines are tested carefully.
2. The device was invented by engineers.
3. Data is collected every day.
4. The discovery was made in a laboratory.

Notes for checking

1. Present passive: am/is/are + past participle - Data is collected every day.
2. Past passive: was/were + past participle - The discovery was made by accident.
3. Agent: by + person/group - The device was invented by engineers.
4. Focus: process/result - New medicines are tested carefully.