



Apples – the world’s favourite fruit

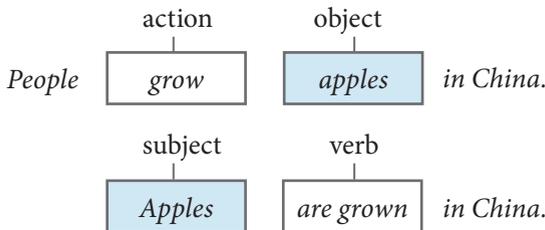
- More than 50 million tonnes of apples are grown every year.
- The first apples were grown in central Asia.
- The first apple tree was brought to Europe by Alexander the Great.
- Apples were introduced to the Americas by Europeans in the 1600s.
- Today, most apples are produced in China.
- Apples aren’t usually found in tropical countries.

Presentation

We often use the passive when it’s obvious or not important who does an action.

Most apples are grown in China. (It doesn’t matter who grows them.)

The passive focuses attention on an action or the object of the action. The object of the action becomes the subject of the verb.



To form the passive, use the verb *be* + past participle.

Affirmative and negative – present simple and past simple

This apple juice	is / was isn’t / wasn’t	made	in China.
These apples	are / were aren’t / weren’t	grown	

Questions – present simple and past simple

	Is / was	this apple juice	made	in China?
Where	are / were	these apples	grown?	

by

When you want to say who or what was responsible for the action (the subject or agent of the action) you use *by*:

Apples were introduced to the Americas by Europeans in the 1600s.

You may not want to say who or what did the action. You can also say:

Apples were introduced to the Americas in the 1600s.

You don’t normally use *by* when the agent is ...

- obvious and therefore unnecessary:

The first apples were grown in central Asia by Asian farmers.

- unknown:

An apple was left on my desk. (I don’t know who left it there.)

Exercises

- 1 Complete the sentences with the present simple passive or the past simple passive form of the verb in brackets.

Banana facts

The first bananas ¹..... (grow) in Papua New Guinea.

Now bananas ²..... (produce) in over 100 tropical countries all over the world.

Green bananas ³..... (use) for cooking and yellow bananas ⁴..... (eat) uncooked. Banana skin

⁵..... (use) for making paper.

The banana tree ⁶..... (introduce) to the east coast of Africa by Muslim Arabs.

The first bananas ⁷..... (bring) to the Americas by Portuguese sailors in the 16th century AD.

Hundreds of accidents ⁸..... (cause) every year by people slipping on banana skins.



- 2 Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence. Use a passive verb.

- People in the west buy too much food.
Too much food in the west.
- We do not eat all the food we buy.
Not all the food we buy
- Last year we threw away more than six million tonnes of food.
More than six million tonnes of food last year.
- The 'Love Food Hate Waste' organization started a campaign to stop waste.
A campaign to stop waste by
- The campaigners persuaded thousands of people to waste less food.
Thousands of people

- 3  Cross out the phrases with **by** where they are not necessary. Then listen and check.

- Pasta was first brought to Italy by Marco Polo.
- Pasta is now eaten by people all over the world.
- Tomatoes were first grown in South America by tomato growers.
- The first cookbook with tomato recipes was written in Naples by a writer.
- Parmesan cheese is made in Italy by the cheese makers of Parma.
- The cheese is made by cheese makers with cow's milk.

