

## 2 Language work: the passive

**A Look at the HELP box. How do you make the passive in your language? How different is it to English?**

### HELP box

#### The passive

We form the passive with the verb **be** + the past participle of the main verb. When we mention the agent, we use **by**.

The passive is often used in technical writing to give an objective tone.

- Present simple passive  
Information **is transmitted by** devices such as the telephone, radio, TV or ...
- Present continuous passive  
New technologies **are being devised** to allow you to watch TV on your mobile.
- Past simple passive  
The term **cyborg was invented by** M Clynes and N Kline in 1960.

- Past continuous passive  
My TV **was being repaired**, so I couldn't watch the match.
- Present perfect passive  
It **has been predicted** that about one third of all work could eventually be performed outside the workplace.
- Past perfect passive  
The system **had been infected** by a virus.
- Future simple passive  
In the next few years, GPS chips **will also be incorporated** into most mobile phones.
- Modal verbs in the passive  
It has been predicted that about one-third of all work **could eventually be performed** outside the workplace.

**B Read the article and underline all the examples of the passive. What tenses are they?**

A HACKER has been sent to jail for fraudulently use of credit card numbers. Nicholas Cook, 28, was arrested by police officers near a bank computer last month.

Eight months earlier, he had been caught copying hundreds of computer

passwords illegally. Also, an e-mail computer was found to contain piracy and other illegal

It is reported that in the last few years Cook has been sending e-mails to malicious software to phone operators and attacking mobile phones by e-mail viruses and pirating

information. Cook has now been sentenced to three years in prison for stealing passwords and obtaining money by credit card fraud.

Government officials say that new anti-hacking legislation will be introduced in the EU next year.

**C Complete these sentences with the passive form of the verbs in brackets.**

- 1 Microprocessors (make) \_\_\_\_\_ of silicon.
- 2 Call centres (use) \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with telephone enquiries.
- 3 In recent years, most mobile phones (equip) \_\_\_\_\_ with Bluetooth.
- 4 GPS (develop) \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1970s as a military navigation system.
- 5 Sorry about the mess – the computers (replace) \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment.
- 6 In the near future, the Internet (access) \_\_\_\_\_ more frequently from PDAs and mobile phones than from desktop computers.
- 7 Networks (can connect) \_\_\_\_\_ via satellite.
- 8 I had to use my laptop this morning while my PC (fix) \_\_\_\_\_.