

GRAMMAR

# Using the present simple passive

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_2012G

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Learning outcomes

- I can identify the present simple passive and explain when to use it.
- I can use the present simple and present simple passive to describe food culture where I come from.



# Warm-up

You're going to read an article on the next slide. Here are two pictures from it.  
**What do they show?**



What **type of meals** do you think these are? Have you ever tried them?

What do you think the article will be about?



# Reading

Read the article. Were your predictions correct? Can you **guess** where these breakfasts come from?

## Breakfasts around the world



While muesli is enjoyed by many people around the world these days, it has its origins in \_\_\_\_\_. It's believed that a doctor, Maximilian Bircher Brenner, discovered the dish while hiking in the Alps in the early 1900s.



If you have a sweet tooth, churros might be your thing! In \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, it's common to start the day with these delicious pastries. They are often served with hot chocolate, which is used as a dip.



In \_\_\_\_\_, a typical breakfast is savoury. It includes steamed rice, miso soup and side dishes, such as pickles and vegetables.

In fact, a meal isn't considered complete without a miso soup, which is made with miso paste and broth.



# Food vocabulary

**Match** the words highlighted in blue to their definitions.

1

*A doctor discovered this **dish** while hiking in the Alps.*

2

*In Spain, it's common to start the day with these delicious **pastries**.*

3

*Hot chocolate is often used as **a dip**.*

4

*In Japan, a typical breakfast is **savoury**.*

5

*Miso soup is made with miso paste and a **broth**.*

a

a thick sauce that you put pieces of food into before you eat them

b

food which is not sweet

c

small cakes made of pastry

d

a thin, clear soup which is usually made with meat

e

food that is prepared in a particular way for a meal

If you **have a sweet tooth**,  
churros might be your  
thing!



Do you **have a sweet tooth**, or do you prefer  
more savoury foods?

# Why do we use the passive voice?

**Read** this example sentence from the article on slide 4. **Complete** the blue boxes.

Churros **are** often **served** with hot chocolate, which **is used** as a dip.

- Does the sentence tell us **who serves** churros?
- Does the sentence tell us **who uses** hot chocolate as a dip?
- Is it important to know **who** does these things? Discuss as a class.

- This sentence uses the **passive voice**. We use the passive voice to **change the focus** of a sentence.
- In the example above, we use the passive because it's not important for us to know **who** does the action.

# How is the passive voice formed?

Read the example sentence again. **Complete** the blue box.

Churros **are** often **served** with hot chocolate, which **is used** as a dip.

- Look at the sections highlighted in blue.
- What **auxiliary verb** is used?
- How is the **main verb** formed?

---

---

---

---

---

---





# Reading

Find four more examples of the passive in the text below.

## Breakfasts around the world



While muesli is enjoyed by many people around the world these days, it has its origins in **Switzerland**. It's believed that a doctor, Maximilian Bircher Brenner, discovered the dish while hiking in the Alps in the early 1900s.



If you have a sweet tooth, churros might be your thing! In **Spain** and parts of **South America** it's common to start the day with these delicious pastries. They are often served with hot chocolate, which is used as a dip.



In **Japan** a typical breakfast is savoury. It includes steamed rice, miso soup and side dishes, such as pickles and vegetables.

In fact, a meal isn't considered complete without a miso soup. This is made with miso paste and broth.

# Comparing active and passive voice

Read the example sentences below. Complete the blue boxes.

1. I **make miso soup** using a recipe I found online.



2. **Miso soup is made** with miso paste and a broth.

- Which sentence is **active**?
- Which sentence is **passive**?

- In active sentences, the subject is the 'doer,' the person or thing that acts on the verb:  
*I make miso soup...*
- In passive sentences, the subject is the person or thing that receives the action:  
*Miso soup is made...*
- Sentence 2 is a general statement about a process (how something is done) rather than about who does it.



We generally use the passive when the 'doer' is obvious, unknown or unimportant.

# Comparing active and passive voice

Read the example sentences below. Complete the blue boxes.

1. Many people around the world **enjoy muesli**.



2. **Muesli** is enjoyed by many people around the world.

- Which sentence is **active**?
- Which sentence is **passive**?

- We can use the **preposition** \_\_\_\_\_ when we do want to include the 'doer' in the passive voice. It goes after the verb, at the end of the sentence.
- The passive voice is used in sentence 2 to avoid having an overly long subject (*Many people around the world...*).

# Forming the present simple passive

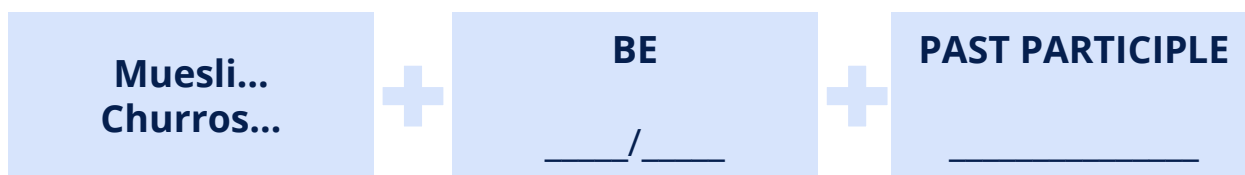
**Categorise** the parts of the sentences below using the information in the blue boxes.

**Muesli is enjoyed by many people around the world.**

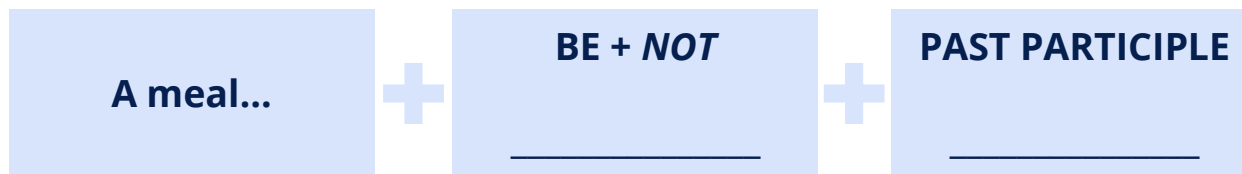
**Churros are often served with hot chocolate.**

**A meal isn't considered complete without a miso soup.**

## Forming the passive (positive)



## Forming the passive (negative)



# Review: active and passive voice

Read the statements below. Do they refer to the **active** or **passive voice**?

- 1 We say **who** or **what** does the action.
- 2 **Who** or **what** does the action is not important, or we don't know this information.
- 3 Often used to make general statements about a **process** (how something is done).
- 4 Often used to avoid having an **overly long subject** in a sentence.
- 5 We can include the 'doer' using the preposition **by**.

**Active voice**

**Passive voice**





# Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the present simple passive.

Choose a classmate and ask them to guess which food item or dish is described.

- 1 This sweet, delicious mixture \_\_\_\_\_ (**spread**) on a fresh baguette in Paris in the morning. It \_\_\_\_\_ (**make**) with fruit and sugar.
- 2 In Australia, breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ (not, **consider**) complete without this caffeinated drink. It's not surprising that their baristas \_\_\_\_\_ (**think**) to be some of the best in the world!
- 3 This soup, which \_\_\_\_\_ (**make**) by adding a miso paste to a broth, \_\_\_\_\_ (not, only, **enjoy**) at breakfast. It \_\_\_\_\_ (usually, **include**) as part of a set meal in most restaurants.
- 4 This food \_\_\_\_\_ (**boil**) in salted water and \_\_\_\_\_ (**serve**) hot. A hard cheese, such as parmesan, \_\_\_\_\_ (often, **grate**) on top. It \_\_\_\_\_ (not, **eat**) at breakfast.
- 5 This \_\_\_\_\_ (**drink**) with an evening meal. It \_\_\_\_\_ (**grow**) in hot, sunny climates and \_\_\_\_\_ (not, **sell**) to people under a certain age, because it's alcoholic.



# Discuss

**Ask and answer** some of the questions below.

Option: Use **breakout rooms** and **share** what you found out about your partner afterwards!



- Are you a morning person?
- Do you always eat the same thing for breakfast? What time do you eat it?
- What's a typical breakfast in your country? Is it sweet or savoury? How is it prepared?
- What are some other typical meals in your country? How are they prepared?
- What are some dishes that are only eaten on special occasions?
- Who cooks the meals in your family?

# End of the lesson

Idiom

***A dog's breakfast***

**Meaning:** a mess; something not done properly.

**Example:** They made a dog's breakfast of that job.





# Additional practice





# Fill in the gaps

**Complete the sentences below** by transforming the verb in brackets to the present simple passive. **Can you guess which food item or dish is described?**

- 1 This is a popular dip or sauce in Greece. It \_\_\_\_\_ (**make**) with cucumbers, yoghurt and garlic. Usually, it \_\_\_\_\_ (**eat**) at lunch or dinner time.
- 2 In the UK, this \_\_\_\_\_ (**drink**) all day but especially in the morning. It \_\_\_\_\_ (**serve**) with milk and sugar.
- 3 This food \_\_\_\_\_ (**consider**) to be typically American. It \_\_\_\_\_ (**prepare**) using meat and bread.
- 4 In Singapore, this fruit \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ (**allow**) on the metro. That's because it \_\_\_\_\_ (**say**) to be very stinky!
- 5 Milk \_\_\_\_\_ (**boil**) to make this drink and then powder \_\_\_\_\_ (**add**).



# Role play guess the food or drink

**Describe a food or drink from your country using the present simple passive.**

Your partner or your teacher will guess what you're talking about. Swap roles.



## Describe!

Describe a food or drink in your country.

*It is usually drunk with breakfast in my country. It is served with milk and sometimes with sugar.*

*Is it tea?*



## Guess!

Guess what food or drink your partner is describing.

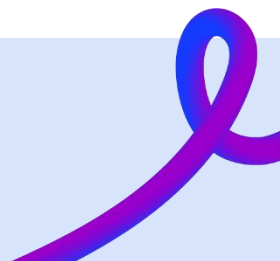
- |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| • It is drunk... | • savoury |
| • to serve       | • pastry  |
| • to consider    | • dip     |
| • dish           | • broth   |



# Transform the sentences

Create present simple passive sentences from the active sentences.

- |   |                                                    |   |                                       |                   |
|---|----------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | People eat dessert after a main course.            | > | Dessert is eaten after a main course. | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 2 | We make this soup by adding onions to the broth.   | > |                                       | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 3 | We eat pastries at breakfast time in France.       | > |                                       | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 4 | People consider rice a breakfast food in Japan.    | > |                                       | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 5 | In Greece, people serve tzatziki with fresh bread. | > |                                       | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 6 | People drink cola all over the world.              | > |                                       | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |





# The most important meal

**What is considered the most important meal of the day in your country?**



**Why? Who do you usually eat this meal with? Do you usually eat it at home?**



# Answer key

**P.4:** Text 1: Switzerland Text 2: Spain; South America Text 3: Japan

**P.5:** 1. (e) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (d)

**P.7**

1. No

2. No

3. No – the passive voice is used here because the subject (who) is not important/it's obvious/a statement about people in general

**P.8:** auxiliary verb: to be (is/are) main verb: past participle

**P.9:**

**Text 1** 1. muesli is enjoyed 2. It's believed that...

**Text 3** 1. A meal isn't considered... 2. This is made with...





# Answer key

## P.10:

**Active:** 1. People make miso broth.... **Passive:** 2. Miso soup is made...

Sentence 1: **subject:** People **verb:** make **object:** miso soup

Sentence 2: **subject:** no subject **verb:** to make **object:** miso soup  
(passive voice) the **object** goes at the start of the sentence

## P.11:

**Active:** 1. Many people around the world enjoy... **Passive:** 2. Muesli is enjoyed...

Sentence 1: **subject:** Many people around the world **verb:** enjoy **object:** muesli

Sentence 2: **subject:** Many people around the world **verb:** is enjoyed **object:** muesli

Preposition: *by*



# Answer key

**P.13:** Active voice: 1 Passive voice: 2, 3, 4, 5

**P.14:** 1. is spread; is made 2. isn't considered; are thought 3. is made; isn't only enjoyed; is usually included 4. is boiled; is served; is often grated; isn't eaten 5. is drunk; is grown; isn't sold

## Additional practice

**P.19:** 1) is made, is eaten: tzatziki, 2) is drunk, is served: tea, 3) is considered, is prepared: burger, 4) is (not) allowed, is said: durian, 5) is boiled, is added: hot chocolate

**P.21:** 2) This soup is made by adding onions to broth. 3) Pastries are eaten at breakfast time in France. 4) Rice is considered a breakfast food in Japan. 5) In Greece, tzatziki is served with fresh bread. 6) Cola is drunk all over the world.



# Summary

## Present simple passive

- We use the passive voice to **change the focus** of a sentence.
- We generally use the passive when the person or thing 'doing' an action is obvious, unknown or unimportant.
- We can include the 'doer' in a passive sentence using the preposition *by*

## Forming the present simple passive

- *is/are* + past participle



# Vocabulary

dish

pastry

dip

savoury

broth

to have a sweet tooth

to serve

to consider

