

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 baked goods made of buttery dough; can be sweet or savoury

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

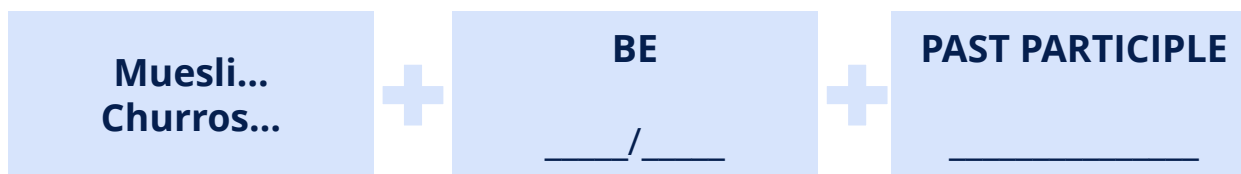
Categorise the parts of the sentences below using the information in the blue boxes.

Muesli is enjoyed by many people around the world.

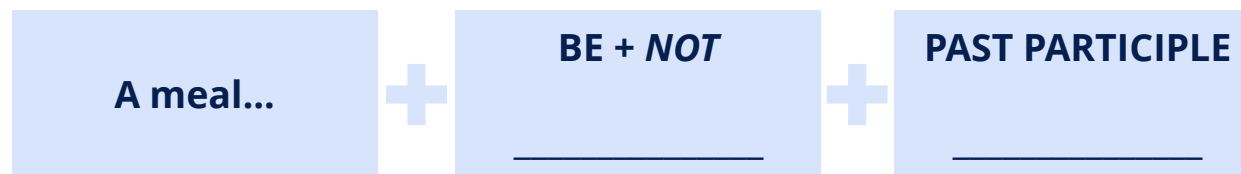
Churros are often served with hot chocolate.

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 dinner

Meaning: a mess; something not done properly.

Example: They made a dog's dinner 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.

2 We make this soup by adding onions to the broth.



3 We eat pastries at breakfast time in France.



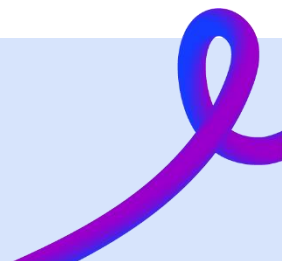
4 People consider rice a breakfast food in Japan.



5 In Greece, people serve tzatziki with fresh bread.



6 People drink cola all over the world.





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

