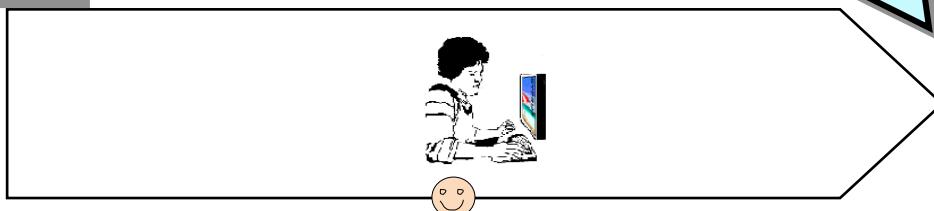


Teachers' version

The graphic for every tense starts with one of these four timeframes...

present



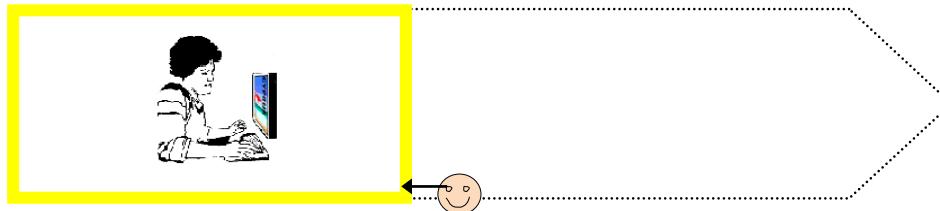
... And each tense starts in one of these four ways.

the 4 timeframes

... with present tense ending
(grey letters)

Example: **she writes** (see chart 4)

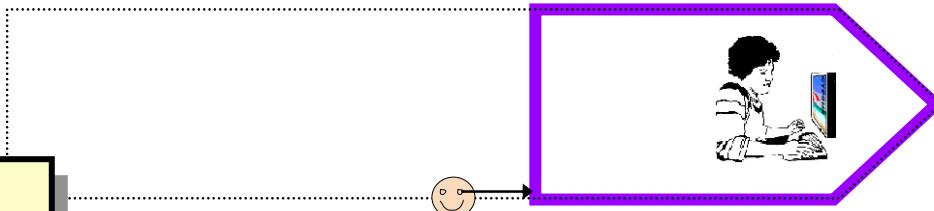
past



... with past tense endings (yellow letters)

Example: **she wrote** (see chart 6)

future

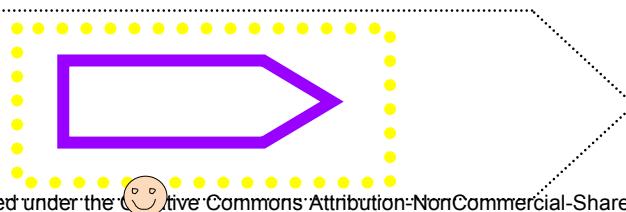


... with future tense endings
(purple letters)

Example: **she will write** (see chart 7)

the conditional is like a combination of the past frame and the future frame.

conditional



... or with conditional endings
(yellow and purple letters)

Example: **she would write** (see chart 8)

Teachers' version

Some or all of these three feature frames can be added to the four basic timeframes to add extra meaning to the tense.

perfect



we will use **green** letters for perfect forms.

Example: **she has written** (see chart)

progressive



we will use **red** letters for progressive forms

Example: **she is writing** (see chart)

passive



we will use **blue** letters for passive forms.

Example: **it is written** (see chart)

Teachers' version

To be used in tenses, verbs have to take different forms ...

... including the "help verbs" "HAVE" and "BE"

the forms of the verb

base

write

have

be

future

will write

will have

will be

present

write, writes

have, has

am, is, are

the base, future and present forms are the same ...

except that the third person present has an "s" ...

... and that the verb "TO BE" is very irregular.

past

wrote

had

was, were

the endings for the perfect and passive are always the same ...

The present and past forms of BE change not just the endings but the whole word. So we will mark the present and past forms with grey and yellow underlines.

perfect

written

had

been

passive

written

had

been

progressive

writing

having

being

present

We use the present simple for things that are generally true, for example where I live and what I like.



we will use **grey** letters for present tense endings.

Ann is a journalist at FreeTime Magazine. **She writes** the Holiday Report



We use the simple past when we talk about a finished, closed timeframe.

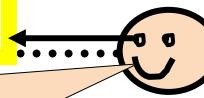
For instance, yesterday or last week or last year

this morning

now (> p.m.)



We use the **yellow** past
form of the first verb.



She wrote the Hawaii Report this morning, before her boss arrived.

future

We use the future tense when we talk about a later time, for instance tomorrow or next week or next year.

now

tomorrow



We use the **purple** help-verb WILL ...

... followed by the **purple** future form of the next verb.



She will write the Report tomorrow - if she has time.

Teachers' version

time up to now

© Steve Powell 1998: verbs in colour

present perfect

The frame for the present perfect relates the past ...

... to the present.

far today

now 3 p.m.)

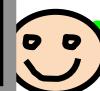
We use the present perfect when we talk about a time that starts in the past but is still open now. E.g. this week, so far today.



Usually the event has a result in the present.

use a form of the green help-verb HAVE ...

... plus the green perfect form of the next verb.



She ~~has~~ **has written** the Report already. Here it is!

for the present perfect we use the present form of the verb HAVE. Note the grey ending.

We make the graph for the present perfect by fitting the feature frame for the present.

... inside the timeframe for the present.

Teachers' version

slice of time in the present

© Powell 1998; verbs in colour

present progressive

We use the present progressive when we talk about a limited, present time.
It is like a short slice from a longer film

... right now ...

We are not interested in the beginning or end of the action.
We are not interested in the result.

She is writing the report - but this is temporary.
Soon she will finish and so you can talk to her then.

We use the present of the verb BE (am, is, are). Note the grey underline for the present tense..

... followed by the -ing form
of the main verb. Note the red colour for the progressive...

She **is writing** the holiday report just now - so don't talk to her.

present passive

We use the present passive when we focus on the receiving end of an action.

We are not interested in who writes the report.
Only in the report itself.

We use the present of
the **blue** verb BE (am,
is, are). Note the **grey**
underline for the
present tense.....

... followed by the **blue, passive** form
of the main verb.

The Report **is written** in three languages.

Teachers' version

slice of time up to now

Steve Powell 1998: verbs in colour 1

present perfect progressive

This tense combines the frames for the present,
the perfect and the progressive ... to make a
slice of time up to now.

all morning

now (11 a.m.)



She is writing the Report.



At any time during the morning, an observer could say "she is writing the report" - looking through the progressive frame.

... a form of the **green** help-verb **HAVE** for the perfect...

... plus the **green** perfect form of the next verb.



But **NOW** it is the end of the morning and the observer looks at the action through the progressive frame AND through the perfect frame and says ...

She has been writing the Report all morning - so she's tired.

the **grey** ending for the present

we use the **red** help-verb **BE** ...

... plus the **red** progressive form of the next verb

License.

past perfect

this morning

now (1 p.m.)

time up to the meeting at the meeting



She has written
the Report at last!



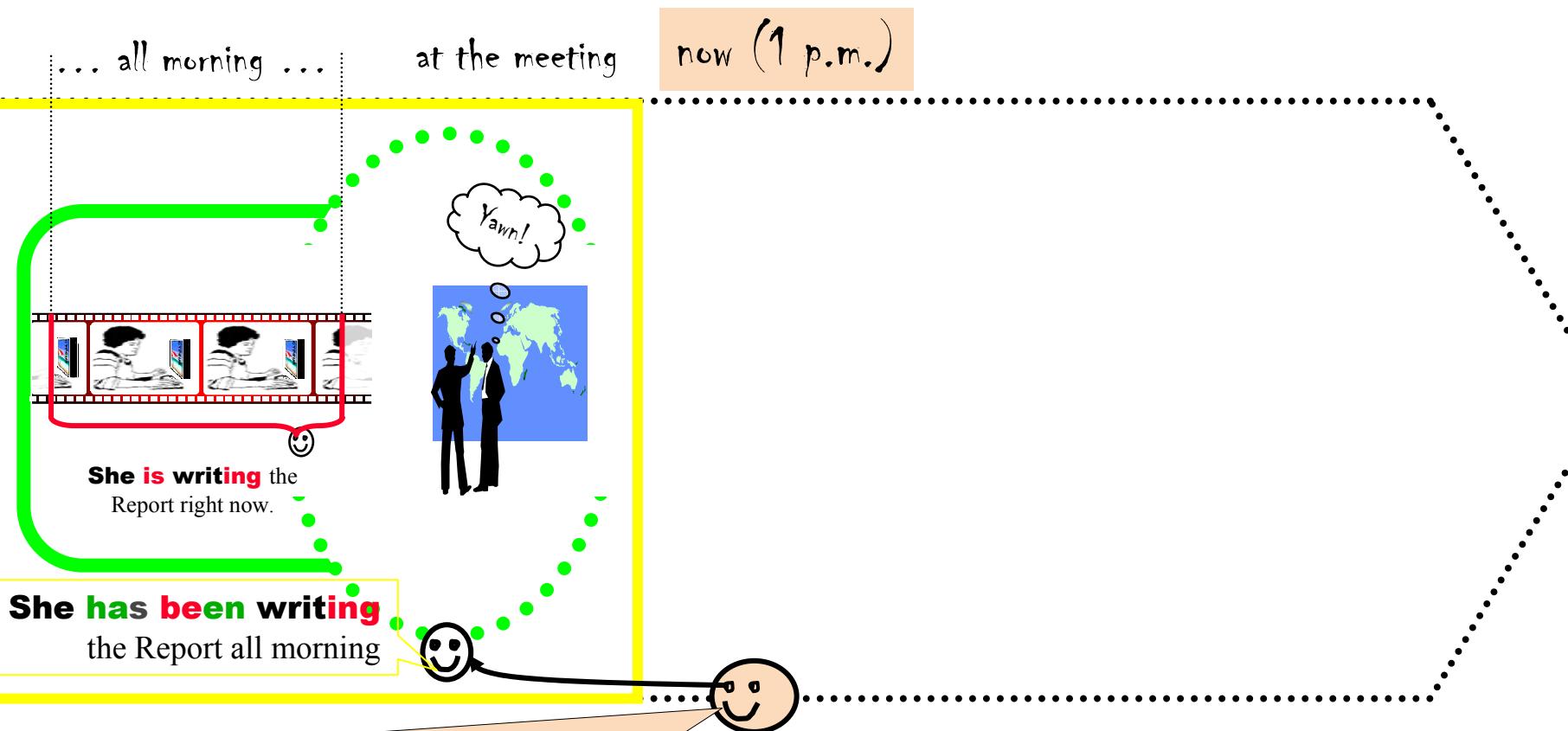
She felt great at the meeting because **she had written** the Report already

past progressive



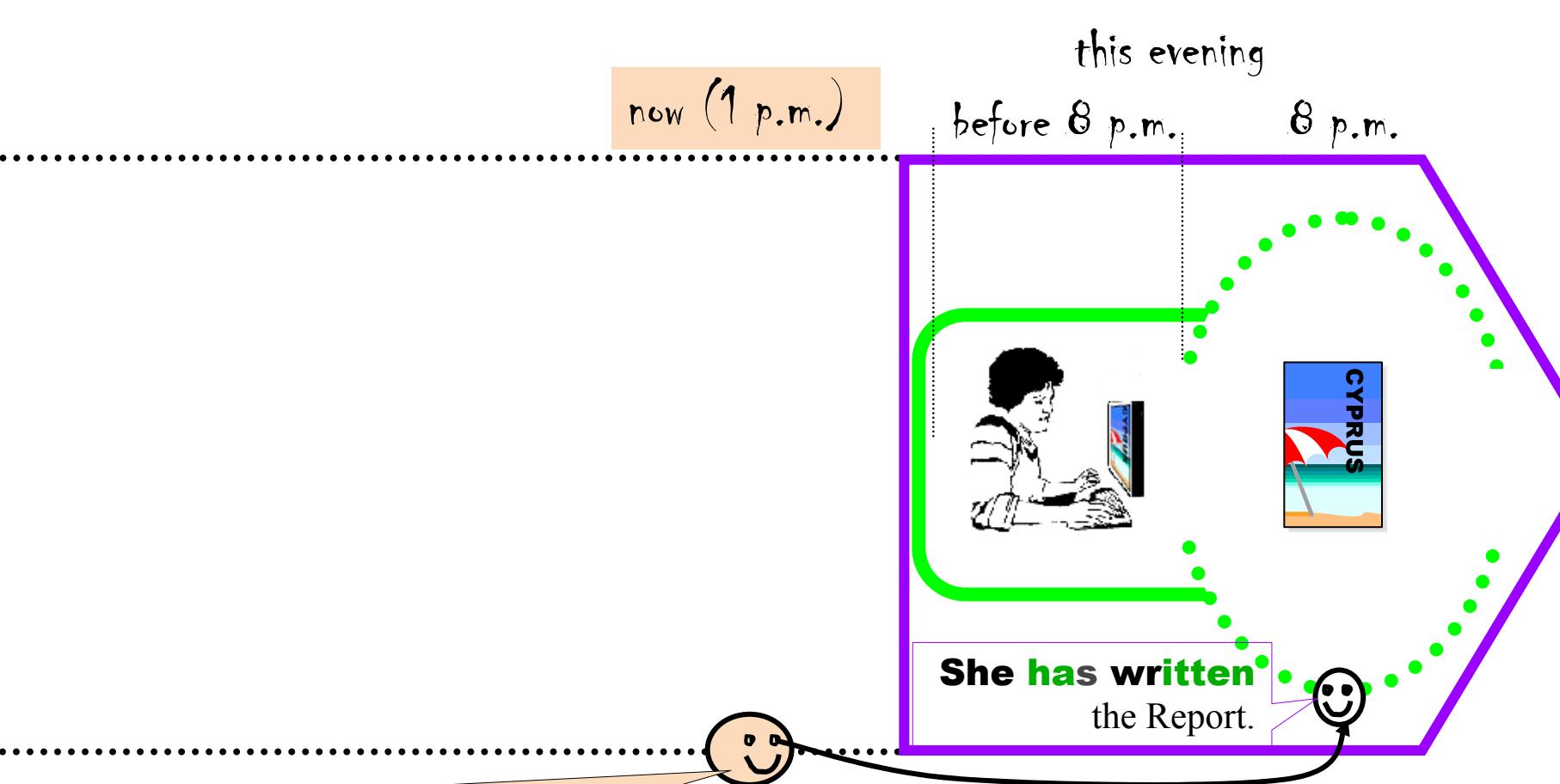
While **she was writing** the Report this morning, the phone rang.

past perfect progressive



She was tired at the meeting because she **had been writing** the Report all morning

future perfect

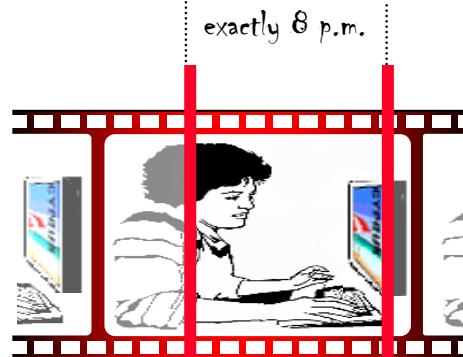


She will have written the Report by 8 o'clock - so call her then.

future progressive

now (1 p.m.)

this evening



exactly 8 p.m.

She is writing
the Report right now.



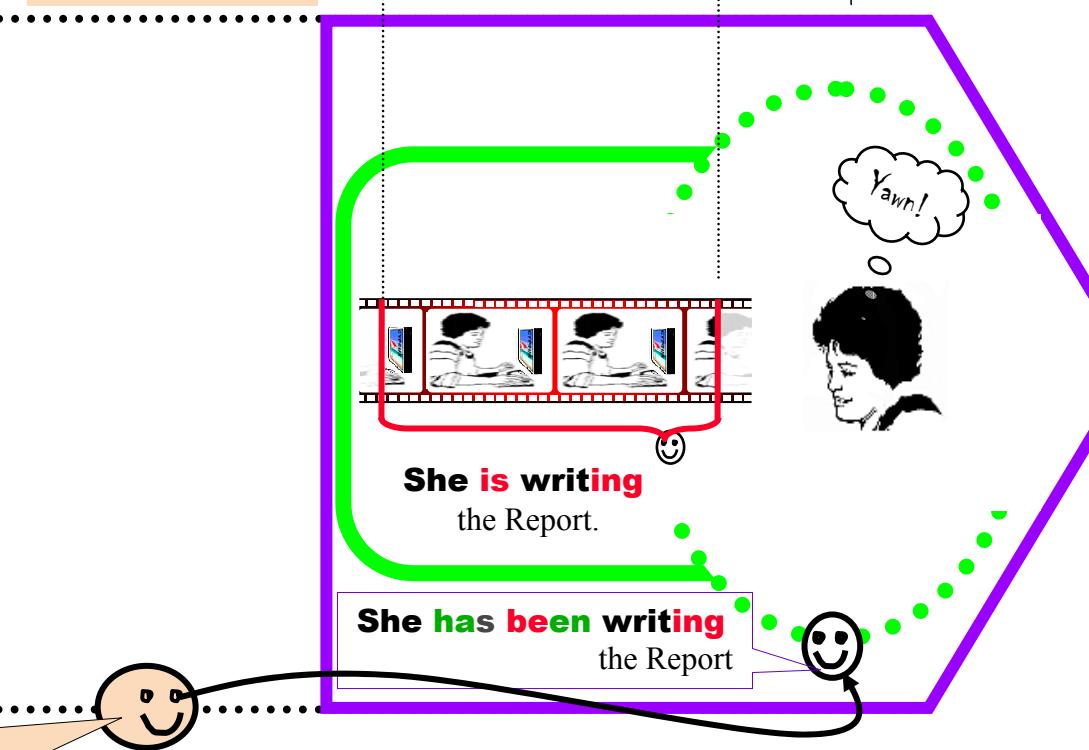
At 7 o'clock **she will be writing** the Report- so don't call her!

future perfect progressive

now (1.p.m.)

5 or 6 hours

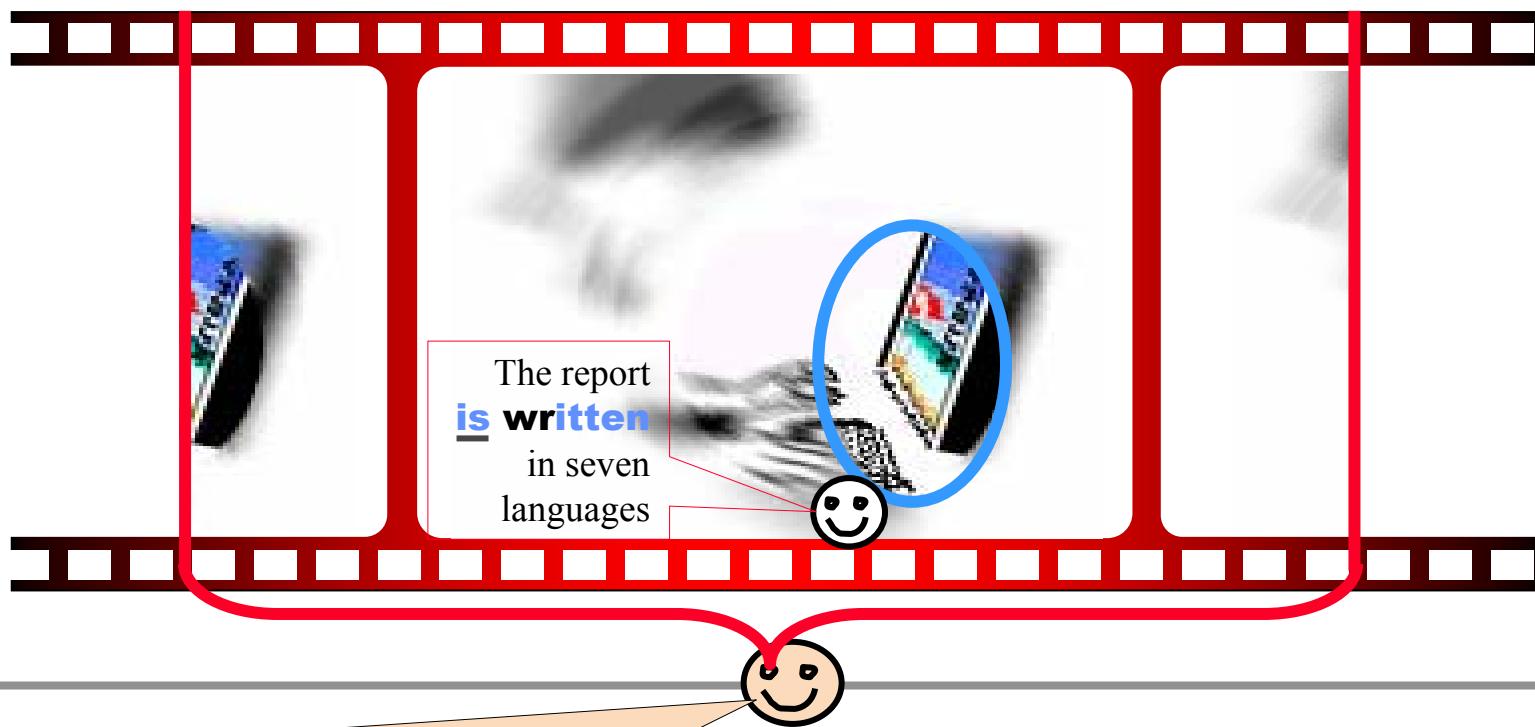
7 p.m.



By 7 o'clock **she will have been writing** for 5 or 6 hours - so she'll be tired

present progressive passive

... ... at the moment

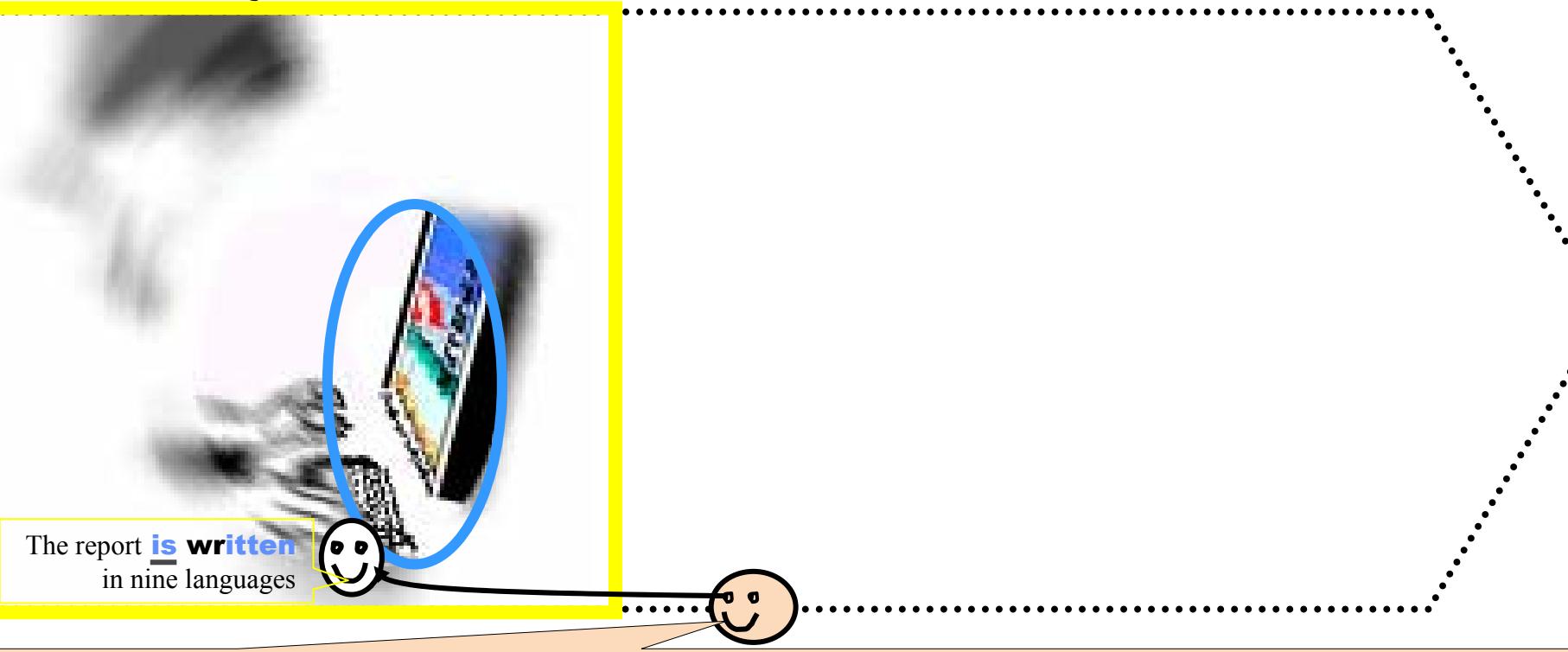


At the moment, the report **is being written** in seven languages.
Soon we will add Hungarian and Portuguese.

past passive

last year

this year



Last year the report **was written** in nine languages.