

# 10 Our interactive world

Passives • Compound nouns • Words that go together • On the phone

## STARTER

- 1 Look at the public notices. Where might you find them?

**English  
is spoken  
here**

**Mobile phones  
must be  
switched off**

**Travel cards  
are sold here**

- 2 Underline the past participles in the notices.  
Which is regular? Which are irregular?

## THE MOBILE PHONE

### Passives

- 1 What is the mobile phone called in your country?  
What is it called in American English? Do you always have yours with you? When do you switch it off?
- 2 Read the introduction to *A phone call that changed the world*. Answer the questions.
  - 1 Who made the first mobile phone call?
  - 2 When and where did he make it?
  - 3 How was the phone different from mobiles today?
- 3 **T 10.1** Read and listen to the *Fact File*. Correct the false information in these sentences.
  - 1 30 million phones are sold worldwide every year.
  - 2 The first text message was sent in the 1990s.
  - 3 Smartphones have been sold since 2002.
  - 4 Apple's iPhone now has over a million apps.
  - 5 The most expensive phone costs £6,000.
  - 6 We throw away nearly a million mobile phones a year.



Once the mobile phone was an oversized luxury item, now it's a pocket-sized mini-computer.

The first mobile phone call **was made** on April 3, 1973, by Martin Cooper, an American engineer, while he was walking along a street in New York City. People stopped and stared in amazement. Martin's phone was like a brick. It was over 20 cm long and weighed 1.3 kilograms. The battery lasted only thirty-six minutes.



## GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Many of the verb forms in the text are in the passive.  
Mobile phones **are owned** by almost 6 billion people.  
The first mobile phone call **was made** in 1973.

How do we make passive forms?

- 2 Read the text again. Write the passive verb forms in the chart.

| Present Simple | Past Simple | Present Perfect | will future |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| are sold       |             | have been sold  |             |

► Grammar Reference 10.1 p144

## Active to passive

- 4 Read the text again. How are these verbs expressed in the passive?
- 1 Martin Cooper **made** the first mobile phone call in 1973.
  - 2 Almost six billion people worldwide **own** mobile phones.
  - 3 Shops in the UK **sell** 30 million phones every year.
  - 4 They **have sold** camera phones since 2002.
  - 5 Engineers **have added** a lot of amazing features.
  - 6 They **decorate** the Goldstriker phone with over 550 diamonds.
  - 7 We **throw away** 100 million mobile phones every year.
  - 8 Some people believe that mobile phones **will** eventually **replace** all landline phones.

**T 10.2** Listen and check.

- 5 What can you do on *your* mobile phone? What do you think they will be used for in the future?

*I can play Scrabble on mine!*

*Maybe they'll be used as credit cards.*

*They might be used as passports.*

# changed the world



## FACT FILE

- Today, mobile phones **are owned** by almost six billion people worldwide. In the UK, 30 million **are sold** every year.
- The first text message **was sent** in 1989. Last year 6.1 trillion texts **were sent** worldwide.
- Camera phones **have been sold** since 2002.
- 'Smartphones' **were introduced** in 2007. The mobile phone had become a multimedia gadget.
- Over the years a multitude of amazing features **have been added**, including Internet browsing, email, MP3 players, video, and camera.
- In 2008 Apple's iPhone had 500 applications (apps). Now there are over 500,000 apps.
- The most expensive mobile is the Goldstriker iPhone 4S Elite Gold. It **is made** of 24ct gold and **decorated** with over 550 diamonds. It costs £6 million.
- 100 million mobile phones **are thrown** away every year.
- Some people believe that before long all landline telephones **will be replaced** by mobile phones.



Goldstriker iPhone 4S Elite Gold

# UNIT 10

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## 10.1 The passive

### Form

|                                                |                                |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| am/is/are<br>was/were<br>has/have been<br>will | + <i>-ed</i> (past participle) |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

The past participle of regular verbs ends in *-ed*. There are many common **irregular past participles**. See the list on p158.

### Present

*English **is spoken** all over the world.*

*100 million mobile phones **are thrown away** every year.*

*Fiat cars **aren't made** in France.*

*Where is coffee **grown**?*

### Past

*The first text message **was sent** in 1989.*

*They **weren't injured** in the accident.*

*When **was** television **invented**?*

## Present Perfect

A lot of new features **have been added**.

The bank's **been robbed**!

We **haven't been invited** to the wedding.

## will

10,000 cars **will be produced** next year.

The cars **won't be sold** in the UK.

## Short answers

Are cars made in your country?

**Yes, they are./No, they aren't.**

Has my car been repaired?

**Yes, it has./No, it hasn't.**

Will landline phones be replaced  
by mobiles?

**Yes, they will./No, they won't.**

## Note

The passive infinitive (to be + -ed) is used after modal auxiliary verbs and other verbs which are followed by an infinitive.

Driving should **be banned** in city centres.

The house is going **to be knocked down**.

## Use

- 1 The rules for tense usage in the passive are the same as in the active.

Present Simple to express habit:

My car **is serviced** regularly.

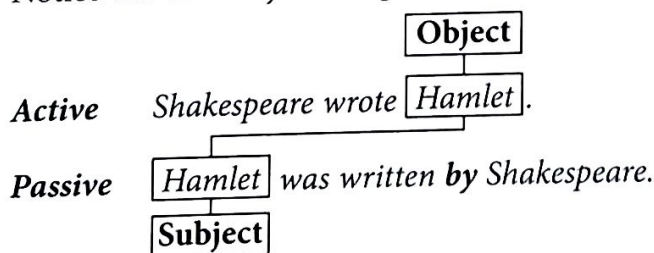
Past Simple to express a finished action in the past:

America **was discovered** by Christopher Columbus.

Present Perfect to express an action which began in the past and continues to the present:

'Smartphones' **have been sold** since 2007.

- 2 The object of an active verb becomes the subject of a passive verb. Notice the use of *by* in the passive sentence.



- 3 The passive is not just another way of expressing the same sentence in the active. We choose the active or the passive depending on what we are more interested in.

Hamlet **was written** in 1600. (We are more interested in *Hamlet*.)

Shakespeare **wrote** Hamlet in 1600. (We are more interested in who wrote it.)

## Note

The subject of an active sentence is not mentioned in the passive sentence if it is not really important.

**Active**      People speak German in parts of Italy.

**Passive**      German is spoken in parts of Italy.

NOT ~~German is spoken in parts of Italy by people.~~