Past Simple Passive is normally used to talk about some completed actions in the past. In the passive voice, emphasis is put on the effect of an action rather than on the doer.

Compare the sentences with active and passive voice:

**ACTIVE:** Mary gave Joe a ring.

**PASSIVE:** A ring was given to Joe by Mary.

via http://englishgu.ru/past-simple/

- This fortress was built 120 year ago.
- Two people were taken to hospital after the accident.
- The railroad was damaged by the storm.

**Past Simple Passive structure**

Let’s compare active and passive structures in Past Simple. The Past Simple Active is formed like this:

**[subject] + verb with -ed ending** (or the Past Simple form for irregular verbs)

To make statements with the Past Simple Passive, use:
was/were + the **Past Participle** form of the verb

Note: We use ‘was‘ for singular nouns and pronouns (I, he, she, it) and ‘were‘ for plural nouns and pronouns (you, we, they).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was heard</td>
<td>We were heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were heard</td>
<td>You were heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/she/it was heard</td>
<td>They were heard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- I was bitten by a dog a few days ago.
- The mistakes were corrected by the teacher.
- No apples were eaten by Lauran.

**When to use Past Simple Passive**

We use Past Simple Passive for actions or events that happened in the past (yesterday, last week (month, year), in 2010). Unlike the Past Perfect Passive, there’s no specific point in the past. In such statements we focus attention on the person or thing affected by the action, when the subject is unknown, unclear or irrelevant.

Compare:

- Tom repaired the car. - The car **was repaired** by Tom.
- Thomas Edison invented the light bulb. - The light bulb **was invented** by Thomas Edison.

In these examples, the focus is on the effect of the past action, it’s not important who performed the action.

We use Past Simple Passive with the same meaning as Past Simple in the active voice except for the fact that Past Simple Passive makes focus on the effect (or the object) rather than the
doer (the subject) of an action. Read more about the uses of Past Simple here.

**Negative forms of Past Simple Passive**

Making a negative Past Simple Passive form is easy. Just insert ‘**not**’ between ‘was’ or ‘were’ and Past Participle (the contracted forms are ‘wasn’t’ and ‘weren’t’).

- *Mary wasn’t invited* to the party.
- *The match wasn’t won* by our team.
- *You weren’t invited* to the party.

**Questions in Past Simple Passive**

To make a question in Past Simple Passive, swap the subject and ‘was’ or ‘were’. The structure for asking questions in Past Simple Passive is:

**was/were + [subject] + Past Participle**

- *Were the students taught* at home?
- *Was the article written* by Nick?

To make a wh-question, insert a **question word** before ‘was’ or ‘were’:

- *When was the test passed?*
- *Where were grapes grown?*

In this video, you’ll learn how to use Past Simple Passive:

Read more about:

- **Present Simple Passive**
- **Future Simple Passive**