

Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo

Escuela Preparatoria No. 3

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Idioma IV A2.2

Passive voice

2022

**Topic:** Inventions and discoveries

**General Objective:** To talk about inventions and discoveries to give more importance to the object.

**Learning goal:** students should be able to talk about inventions, discoveries and other creations using passive voice in past and present.

**Competence:** communication

**Abstract:** This material is for students to practice the use of the passive structures in present and past to give more importance to the objects. Passive voice consists of the verb to be, as helping verb, and the participle of the action verbs. It is a structure that can have different combinations depending on the tense to be used. The context that is being used for this material is inventions, but other common contexts for passive voice are movies, books, arts, news reports, etc.. Some examples about these last topics will be included as well for more practice. Students can compare this structure to Spanish since there is an equivalent in our mother tongue. Also, learners will identify common verbs to use with passive.

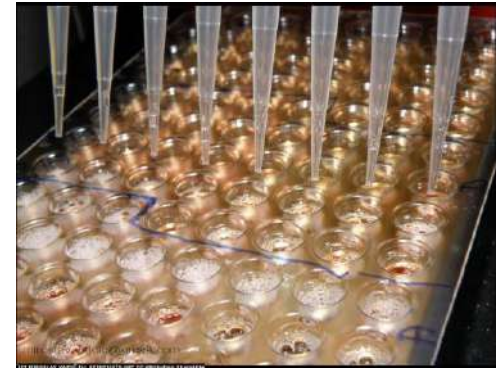
**Key words:** object, invention, discovery, creation, by, passive voice

# What do you know about the DNA?

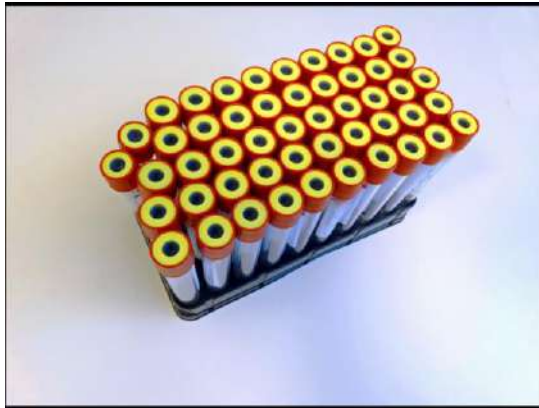
Read the following ideas to identify some information about it.

It is a common misconception that James Watson and Francis Crick discovered DNA in the 1950s. **In reality, DNA was discovered decades before.** It was by following the work of the pioneers before them that James and Francis were able to come to their ground-breaking conclusion about the structure of DNA in 1953.

The molecule now known as **DNA was first identified in the 1860s by a Swiss chemist called Johann Friedrich Miescher.** Johann set out to research the key components of white blood cells, part of our body's immune system. The main source of these cells was pus-coated bandages collected from a nearby medical clinic.



# What do you know about the DNA?



In 1881, Albrecht Kossel identified nuclein as a nucleic acid and provided its present chemical name, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). He also isolated the five nucleotide<sup>?</sup> bases that are the building blocks of DNA and RNA<sup>?</sup>: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), thymine (T) and uracil (U).

**This work was rewarded in 1910** when he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The chromosome theory of inheritance **was developed primarily** by Walter **Sutton and Theodor Boveri**. They first presented the idea that the genetic material passed down from parent to child is within the chromosomes. Their work helped explain the inheritance patterns that Gregor Mendel had observed over a century before.

Information taken from <https://www.yourgenome.org/stories/the-discovery-of-dna>

# Look at these examples:

## Past events

In the 1860s, DNA **was** first **identified** by a Swiss chemist.

Albrecht's work **was** **rewarded** in 1910

Several research projects **were** **done** to identify the DNA.

## Present (facts, things that are generally true)

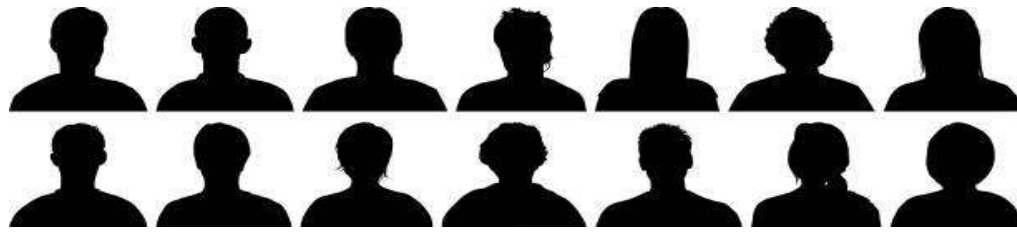
Microscopes **are** **used** regularly in laboratories.

New elements **aren't** **discovered** regularly by scientists.

DNA **is** **studied** by different reseracher around the world.

These examples are in **passive voice**. It is a structure that is used when we want to give more importance to the **objects** (person or thing that recieves the action.)

*What are the elements of passive voice?*



## Form of the passive. To form this structure you need:

- verb to be: is/are (present) or was/were (past)
- past participle of the action verbs

## Uses of the passive

-You can find passive examples in scientific articles, newspapers, news reports, formal papers. When talking about inventions, discoveries, movies, series, books, etc.

-Remember that the main focus is the object or when the person who does the action is not very important. However, you can introduce the person using the word **by**.

Facebook **is used** everyday. (fact)

Facebook **was invented by** Mark Zuckerberg in 2004. (past event)

## Let's recall the participle of some verbs

- write
- produce
- speak
- discover
- use
- grow
- create
- design
- invent
- assemble
- make
- build
- do
- eat
- perform



## Let's practice with some exercises

Many cars \_\_\_\_\_ (make) in Japan

English \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) in many countries around the world.

Avocados \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) in Mexico.

I think millions of emails \_\_\_\_\_ (send) everyday.

The first electric vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ (develop) around 1832.

My house \_\_\_\_\_ (build) 20 years ago.

The Star War's day \_\_\_\_\_ (celebrate) every May 4th.

# Conclusion

- When learning grammar, keep in mind **the uses of the structures** you are learning so you can put them into practice. To use the first conditional remember to refer **to a present condition with a possible future consequence**. Also, reflect on the actions we are doing to help the environment. Consider that **if we don't make changes, our world will suffer terrible consequences**.

## References

The discovery of DNA. (March, 24th 2022)

. <https://www.yourgenome.org/stories/the-discovery-of-dna> o

Davis, P. (2014). *Make it Real Junior A2.2*. Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo.