

THE PASSIVE

**A** Read the text and complete with ONE of these words: **paper, wood, tree, trees.**

From tree to paper

\_\_\_\_\_ was invented by the Chinese in the first century A.D. The art of \_\_\_\_\_-making took seven hundred years to reach the Middle East, and another 700 to reach Great Britain. Before this, books were written on animal skin.

Most \_\_\_\_\_ is made from \_\_\_\_\_. When \_\_\_\_\_ are cut down, they are taken by land or water to factories called \_\_\_\_\_ mills. Here, the \_\_\_\_\_ are cut into pieces and the \_\_\_\_\_ is broken up into fibres, which are mixed with water and chemicals. This \_\_\_\_\_ pulp is then dried on a machine and made into \_\_\_\_\_.

Paper-making is an important British industry and \_\_\_\_\_ from Britain is exported to many countries, including Australia and South Africa. Some of the \_\_\_\_\_ used to make \_\_\_\_\_ comes from \_\_\_\_\_ grown in Britain, but \_\_\_\_\_ is also imported from other countries, like Norway.

One \_\_\_\_\_ is needed to make four hundred (400) copies of a typical forty-page newspaper. If just fifty percent (50%) of the adults in Britain buy a daily \_\_\_\_\_, this uses up over forty thousand (40,000) \_\_\_\_\_ a day. In the future there may be a serious \_\_\_\_\_ shortage, because \_\_\_\_\_ are being cut down faster than they are being planted.

**B** Underline the passive verbs in the text above. Which verbs are regular, and which verbs are irregular? Complete the table of verb forms below.

Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
write	wrote	
make		
buy		
cut		
drink		drunk
sell		
give		
take		
spend		

**C** Complete the following text.

Use: spend – sell – buy – give – open – export – invent - produce

Coca-cola ..... in 1886 by a man called John Pemberton in Atlanta, U.S.A. It ..... the name Coca-cola by his business partner, Frank Robinson. At first the drink was not very popular, and only nine drinks a day .....

In 1888, the business ..... by a man called Asa Candler, and the first factory ..... in Dallas, Texas in 1895.

Coke ..... in many other countries today, and it ..... all over the world. A lot of money ..... on advertising and marketing it.

## Grammar note:

**Active:** Edison invented the light bulb. = subject – verb (simple past) – object


**Passive:** auxiliary verb BE (in the correct tense) + the PAST PARTICIPLE

The light bulb **WAS INVENTED** by Edison. = object – passive verb (auxiliary+past participle) – by +subject

**N.B.** The Passive is formal and impersonal. It is often used in scientific writing to describe research and experiments.

If the subject of the ACTIVE is people / they / somebody there is no need for an agent with “by” in the PASSIVE.

Example:

**They** make excellent bread in Altamura ~~them~~  Excellent bread **is made** in Altamura ~~by them~~

**D** Read the text about instant coffee and underline all examples of PASSIVE verbs. Decide which tense they are in, and change the sentences back into the ACTIVE.

## INSTANT COFFEE

When coffee arrives at an instant coffee factory, it has already been roasted and ground. In the factory, water is slowly passed through the coffee. The resulting liquid is then repeatedly pumped through tubes at a very high temperature and pressure. This makes some of the water evaporate, leaving a very strong “coffee liquor”.

To make instant coffee powder, the coffee liquor is poured through large cylindrical driers at 250°C. The heat evaporates the liquid and leaves instant coffee powder which is collected and put into glass jars.

Granulated coffee is made by freeze-drying. The coffee liquor is rapidly frozen into blocks. After these have been broken up into small pieces, they are dried in a vacuum. This removes the water without heat, leaving instant coffee granules.

**E** Complete the text about how pencils are made with the participles.

## PENCILS

A pencil looks like a single piece of wood, but actually it is \_\_\_\_\_ from two pieces of wood which have been carefully \_\_\_\_\_ together. Thin pieces of wood are \_\_\_\_\_ through a machine which cuts grooves in them. Pencil lead, which is \_\_\_\_\_ from graphite, clay, water and wax, is \_\_\_\_\_ into long pieces and \_\_\_\_\_ into the grooves in one piece of wood. A second piece of wood is \_\_\_\_\_ on top of the first one, so that the grooves meet, with the lead inside, and then the two pieces of wood are \_\_\_\_\_ together. They are then \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ into separate pencils.

Participles: shaped   sent   cut x 2   put   made x 2   inserted   glued x 2

**F** Now put the passive verbs into the following sentences:

VERBS: publish - kill - describe - use - teach - protect - invent - make - refine - find - release

1. Bread ..... from flour, water and yeast.
2. The earth ..... from solar radiation by the atmosphere.
3. Darwin's famous book "*On the Origin of Species*" ..... in 1859.
4. Oxygen ..... into the atmosphere by plants.
5. The telephone..... by Alexander Graham Bell.
6. Wood .....to make paper.
7. Our courses ..... by professors and researchers.
8. DNA structure ..... by Crick and Watson in the 1950s.
9. A lot of people in south-east Asia ..... by a tsunami in 2005.
10. Petrol ..... before we can use it in our cars.
11. Wine ..... from fermented grape juice.
12. Insects..... by their hard external skeleton.
13. Paper..... in China almost two thousand years ago.
14. Sugar cane ..... in Brazil as bio-fuel for cars.
15. A caffeine-free coffee plant ..... in South America a few years ago.

**G** Writing: Describe the manufacturing process of a food/drink in 200-250 words

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Most **paper** is made from **wood**. When **trees** are cut down, they are taken by land or water to factories called **paper** mills. Here, the **trees** are cut into pieces and the **wood** is broken up into fibres, which are mixed with water and chemicals. This **wood** pulp is then dried on a machine and made into **paper**.

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sell	sold	sold
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spend	spent	spent

**C** Complete the following text.

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In 1888, the business **was bought** by a man called Asa Candler, and the first factory **was opened** in Dallas, Texas in 1895.

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