



The British built the first tanks during World War I (1914 – 1918). The work was carried out in complete secrecy.

Even the workmen in the factory where they were made had no idea what these bulky lorries were to be. The men were told that the machines were going to be used in Egypt for transporting large quantities of water. Every record which was

**tank:** strong military vehicle  
**carry out:** make  
**bulky:** large and heavy  
**record:** information, story  
**regarding:** concerning  
**to head:** write a title  
**adopted:** realize

made regarding them was headed WATER-CARRIER. After some time, this was shortened by the workmen to TANK.

The name was kept, and has since then been adopted by nearly all countries.

### Answer the questions:

- When were the first tanks made? .....
- Who made them?.....
- What does a tank look like? .....
- Why was their manufacture kept a secret? .....
- What were the workers told? .....
- Were there any other inventions and developments made during World War I? .....
- .....
- Do you think that war can be avoided some day in the future? .....
- .....
- .....

The passive is usually formed by the verb BE + past participle (**+by+object**)  
*The first tanks were made by the British.*

### Put in the passive voice:

1. They needed the tanks in France. ....
2. The British built the first tanks. ....
3. They told the workmen the lorries would be used in Egypt. ....
4. Almost all countries adopted the name.\* .....
5. We kept the name. ....

*\*Germany was enemy of most European countries in the first half of the 20th century. So the word didn't come in their language. Germans call those military vehicles "Panzer".*