

The **International Finance Centre** is an integrated commercial development on the waterfront of Hong Kong's Central District. IFC Development, a consortium of Hong Kong companies, constructed the complex between 1997 and 2003.

Officials opened One IFC in December 1998, towards the end of the Asian financial crisis and is the tallest building in Hong Kong

Two International Finance Centre, which builders completed in 2003, is currently Hong Kong's second tallest.

People have praised the complex for its high-tech features and the designers equipped it with advanced telecommunications and double-deck elevators.

The HKMA bought the 55th, 56th and the 77th to 88th floors for USUS\$ 480 million in 2001.

Hollywood film studios have used the IFC complex as a location in a number of Hollywood films such as Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life and Batman: The Dark Knight.

Some people have criticized the great size of the complex and its impact on the famous Hong Kong skyline, and have described it as an 'oversized monster'.

Workers are currently carrying out work to improve the gardens to the north of the complex.

The **International Finance Centre** is an integrated commercial development on the waterfront of Hong Kong's Central District.

The building was constructed and is owned by IFC Development, a consortium of Hong Kong companies, between 1997 and 2003.

One IFC (was) opened in December 1998, towards the end of the Asian financial crisis, and is the tallest building in Hong Kong

Two International Finance Centre, which was completed in 2003, is currently Hong Kong's second tallest.

The complex has been praised for its high-tech features and is equipped with advanced telecommunications and double-deck elevators.

The 55th, 56th and the 77th to 88th floors were bought by the HKMA for USUS\$ 480 million in 2001.

The IFC complex has been used as a location in a number of Hollywood films such as Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life and Batman: The Dark Knight.

However, the great size of the complex, and its impact on the famous Hong Kong skyline, have been criticized and it has been described as an 'oversized monster'.

Work is currently being carried out to improve the gardens to the north of the complex.

The first version is unsatisfactory in terms of style. It can be improved by using the passive voice (*see* second version).

The **International Finance Centre** is an integrated commercial development on the waterfront of Hong Kong's Central District. IFC Development, a consortium of Hong Kong companies, constructed the complex between 1997 and 2003.

- (1) *The passive voice is better here because we are talking about the IFC – this is our main topic. Also, the first sentence is about the IFC, so the paragraph reads better if we keep this as the main topic and the subject of the second sentence. However, it's important we name the consortium 'IFC Development' – otherwise we would have less information, so we use a 'by' phrase.*

Officials opened One IFC in December 1998, towards the end of the Asian financial crisis and is the tallest building in Hong Kong

- (2) *Passive voice is used for the same reasons as (1) above. Also, it is not necessary to say who opened the building in this case. The agent – 'officials' is unimportant.*

Two International Finance Centre, which builders completed in 2003, is currently Hong Kong's second tallest.

- (3) *Passive voice is used because the agent 'builders' is obvious – we don't need to say it.*

People have praised the complex for its high-tech features and the designers equipped it with advanced telecommunications and double-deck elevators.

- (4) *The active voice with 'people' as the subject. is common in spoken English to refer to something generally believed etc. In more formal written contexts such as this, the passive voice is preferred.*

The HKMA bought the 55th, 56th and the 77th to 88th floors for USUS\$ 480 million in 2001.

- (5) *Passive voice is used for the same reasons as (1) above. It is important to mention the HKMA, so we use a 'by' phrase.*

Hollywood film studios have used the IFC complex as a location in a number of Hollywood films such as Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life and Batman: The Dark Knight.

- (6) *Passive voice is used for the same reasons as (1) above. We don't need to say 'by Hollywood film studios' as this is obvious from the rest of the sentence.*

Some people have criticized the great size of the complex and its impact on the famous Hong Kong skyline, and have described it as an 'oversized monster'.

- (7) *Passive voice is used for the same reasons as (4) above.*

Workers are currently carrying out work to improve the gardens to the north of the complex.

- (7) *Passive voice is used because the agent 'workers' is obvious – we don't need to say it.*