

## 4.12 Passive reporting structures

In **informal** language we often use impersonal expressions like:

- **People say that** the minister is likely to resign.
- **They expect him to announce** his resignation this week.
- **They think that** there are two possible candidates for his job.

In newspapers, reports and other more **formal** writing, this idea is often expressed with a structure based on a passive reporting verb. This has the effect of distancing the information.

- **It is said that** the minister is likely to resign.
- **He is expected to announce** his resignation this week.
- **There are thought to be** two possible candidates for his job.

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1 **Passive verb forms** are used in the **same tenses** as active verbs.

Active	Passive
<b>People say</b> that the minister is likely to resign.	<b>It is said</b> that the minister <b>is likely to resign</b> .
<b>They expect</b> him to announce his resignation this week.	<b>He is expected to announce</b> his resignation this week.
<b>They think</b> that there are two possible candidates for his job.	<b>There are thought to be</b> two possible candidates for his job

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We can also use a structure with a **subject**, a **passive verb** and a **to-infinitive**:

- The president is thought to be planning a trip to the area.
- The young actor was reported to have signed up for a new film.
- More engineers are expected to be taken on soon.

**Verbs used like this include:** believe, expect, report, say, think, understand

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We can use a third pattern with **preparatory there** and a passive reporting **verb** followed by **a to-infinitive**, especially when saying something exists or existed.

- **There is understood to be** a strong desire for peace talks.
- **There are reported to have been** several explosions.
- **There was thought to be** another entrance to the building.
- **There were said to have been** a lot of applicants for the job.

**Pattern:** **There is/are + passive verb + to be/to have been + noun phrase**

**Verbs used like this include:** **feel, presume, report, say, think, understand**

## 4.12 Practicing passive reporting structures

*Correct the error in each sentence.*

1 The children are suppose looking after by their grandmother this week.

2 Tickets say to be bought three weeks in advance of the show.

3 They weren't suppose to have changed their plans.

4 The new film was said been released already.