

Reporting with passives

We can use passive structures with infinitives in formal writing to report opinions and beliefs.

Present and Future

Object + verb to be + reporting verb as past participle + to + infinitive + clause

Valencia is believed to be the best city in Spain.

Many people think Messi is the best player ever.

—> Messi **is thought to be** the best player ever.

Scientists know that pollen allergy affects a lot of people.

—> Pollen allergies **are known to affect** a lot of people.

Journalists expect that the president will give a speech at 2pm.

—> The president **is expected to give** a speech at 2pm.

Change the second sentence using the passive structure.

1. Experts say that 8 hours sleep is the perfect amount.

8 hours sleep _____

2. They expect that 2000 people will attend the festival.

2000 people _____

3. Police think that the stolen money is buried in the garden.

The stolen money _____

4. There are rumours that Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez are dating again.

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez _____

- What country **is considered to have** the best cuisine in the world?
- How many portions of fruit and veg **are said to be** the minimum recommended amount per day?

Past – use a perfect infinitive (to have been, to have made, to have done)

Object + verb to be + reporting verb as past participle + to + have + past participle

Da Vinci is thought to have invented the helicopter

Experts think that Van Gogh painted the painting in 1888.

—> Van Gogh **is thought to have painted** the painting in 1888.

The police think he killed his wife.

—> He **is thought to have killed** his wife.

Verbs used in this way included: **believe, consider, estimate, expect, know, report, say, think, understand and “to be rumoured”**.

Change the second sentence using the passive structure.

5. Experts estimate that 20 people died in the fire.

20 people _____.

6. Journalists report that Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce have broken up.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce _____.

7. Scientists believe that the big bang happened 13.7 billion years ago.

The big bang _____.

Another variation of reporting with passives...

It is + past participle + that + clause...

Experts say that 8 hours of sleep is the perfect amount.

—> **It is said that** 8 hours sleep of sleep is the perfect amount.

They expect that 2000 people will attend the festival.

—> **It is expected that** 2000 people will attend the festival

Journalists report that Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce have broken up.

—> **It is reported that** Taylor Swift and Travis Kielce have broken up.

