

It is said that ... He is said to ... He is supposed to ...

A

Study this example situation:



George is very old. Nobody knows exactly how old he is, but:

It is said that he is 108 years old.

or He is said to be 108 years old.

Both these sentences mean: 'People say that he is 108 years old.'

You can use these structures with a number of other verbs, especially:

alleged believed considered expected known reported thought understood

Compare the two structures:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathy loves running.
It is said that she runs ten miles a day. | or She is said to run ten miles a day. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The police are looking for a missing boy.
It is believed that the boy is wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. | or The boy is believed to be wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The strike started three weeks ago.
It is expected that the strike will end soon. | or The strike is expected to end soon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friend of mine has been arrested.
It is alleged that he hit a policeman. | or He is alleged to have hit a policeman. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The two houses belong to the same family.
It is said that there is a secret tunnel between them. | or There is said to be a secret tunnel between them. |

These structures are often used in news reports. For example, in a report about an accident:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is reported that two people were injured in the explosion. | or Two people are reported to have been injured in the explosion. |
|---|--|

B

(Be) supposed toSometimes **(it is) supposed to ...** = (it is) said to ... :

- ☐ I want to see that film. **It's supposed to be** good. (= it is said to be good)
- ☐ Fireworks **are supposed to have been invented** in China. Is it true?

But sometimes **supposed to** has a different meaning. We use **supposed to** to say what is intended, arranged or expected. Often this is different from the real situation:

- ☐ The plan **is supposed to be** a secret, but everybody seems to know about it.
(= the plan is intended to be a secret)
- ☐ What are you doing at work? You're **supposed to be** on holiday.
(= you arranged to be on holiday)
- ☐ Our guests **were supposed to come** at 7.30, but they were late.
- ☐ Jane **was supposed to phone** me last night, but she didn't.
- ☐ I'd better hurry. I'm **supposed to be meeting** Chris in ten minutes.

You're **not supposed to** do something = it is not allowed or advisable:

- ☐ You're **not supposed to park** your car here. It's private parking only.
- ☐ Jeff is much better after his illness, but he's still **not supposed to do** any heavy work.