

Impersonal passive / nominalisation

It is said that.... [It + passive verb (be + past participle) + that clause]

A common way of reporting what is said by people or by an unspecified group of people

They report the defence minister is to resign

It is reported that the defence minister is to resign

Nominalised: There is a report that the defence minister is to resign

Nominalised: One report is that the defence minister is to resign

They have suggested the lack of funding is part of the problem

It has been suggested that the lack of funding is part of the problem

Nominalised: There has been a suggestion that the lack of funding is part of the problem

Nominalised: One/a suggestion has been (given) that the lack of funding is part of the problem

To infinitive impersonal passives

The subject + passive verb (be+past participle) + to infinitive

They claim the terrorist is living abroad

It is claimed that the terrorist is living abroad

The terrorist is claimed to be living abroad

Nominalised: There is a claim that the terrorist is living abroad

Nominalised: One / a claim is that the terrorist is living abroad

They alleged that three hundred people died in the plane crash

It was alleged that three hundred people died in the plane crash

Three hundred people were alleged to have died in the plane crash

There was an allegation that three hundred people died in the plane crash

One allegation was that three hundred people died in the plane crash

Common verbs: agree / allege / announce / assume / believe / calculate / claim / consider / declare / discover / estimate / expect / find / known / mention / propose / recommend / rumour / show / suppose / suggest / understand