# Passive of Reporting Verbs / Impersonal Passive

Verbs that refer to saying or thinking ***( think, believe, say, report, know, consider, hope, understand, suppose…***) are often followed by a to-infinitive form in the passive.

*Example*: The police ***think*** he **is** in Argentina.

He ***is thought*** **to be** in Argentina.

There are **four Infinitive forms**, which we will use depending on the tense we have in the active sentence.

## Simple **to write** escribir

## Continuous **to be writing** estar escribiendo

## Perfect **to have written** haber escrito

## Perf. Continuous **to have been writing** haber estado escribiendo

## **In order to make this type of passive sentence, we**

### Take the subject of the second sentence: ***He***

1. Passive verb of the Reporting verb in the same tense as in the active: ***is thought***
2. The verb of the second sentence in the Infinitive form.

## **Which form of the Infinitive do we use?**

* If it carries an **idea of present or future** 🡺 Simple: ***to write***
* It it carries **an idea of past**, whatever the tense (Past Simple, Past Perfect, Present Perfect) 🡺 Perfect: ***to have written***.
* If either of them are in a **continuous form,** you use the adequate Infinitive continuous form **🡺 *to be writing*** or ***to have been writing***

#### **Some more examples:**

**Active Passive**

They *say* she **works** hard. She *is said* **to work** hard.

They *say* she **played** well. She *is said* **to have played** well.

They *said* she **has done** well. She *was said* **to have done** well.

They *believe* he **is having** an affair. He *is believed* **to be having** an affair.

They *believe* he **has been having** an affair. He *is believed* **to have been having** an affair.

She *believes* the repairs **have been finished**. The repairs *are believed* **to have been**

**finished**.

Impersonal Passive

1. People *believe* that English **is** the most widely spoken language

1. *It is believed* that English **is** the most widely spoken language.
2. English *is believed* **to be** the most widely spoken language.
3. Police *have reported*  that it was Peter who **caused** the accident.
4. It *has been reported* that it was Peter who **caused** the accident.
5. Peter *has been reported* to **have caused** the accident.
6. A journalist *reports* that they **are leaving**Las Vegas tomorrow night.
7. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. The lecturer *thought* that Columbus never **realized** that he had discovered America.
9. Columbus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. Their parents t*hought* that the teenagers **were dancing** at the disco.
11. The teenagers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. Everybody *thinks* that she **sings** beautifully.
13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
14. The children *reported* that their friends **were swimming** when they disappeared.
15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
16. People *believed* that they had killedthe animals during the night.
17. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
18. My friends think that my parents are the best parents in the world.
19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
20. They believed that the horse was a present.
21. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11.People think that drugs **are** very dangerous.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12.They knew that Mr. Brown was stealing iron from the factory.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.People consider that the team will be classified for the final.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14.Everybody says that he settled the business.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.Citizens presume that the government is responsible for the accident.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Some verbs have special Passive forms:**

* **Make and Help**

They are followed by a bare infinitive in the active, but take a **to-infinitive** in the passive

## Active: *Her two sisters made him* ***clean*** *the house*

Passive*: He was made* ***to clean*** *the house by her two sisters.*

* **Let**

In the passive, **let** is replaced by **allowed** and is followed by a to-infinitive.

Active: *The teacher* ***let*** *us leave early*

Passive: *We were* ***allowed to*** *leave early (by the teacher)*

* **See and Hear**

Some **verbs of the senses** can be followed by either a **to-infinitive** or a **gerund** form in the passive.

Active: *They heard the baby* ***cry / crying***.

Passive: *The baby was heard* ***to cry / crying***.

**Impersonal Passive**

1. People believe that English is the most widely spoken language  
It is believed that English is the most widely spoken language.  
English is believed to be the most widely spoken language.

2. Police have reported that Peter caused the accident.  
It has been reported that Peter caused the accident.  
Peter has been reported to have caused the accident.

3. A journalist reports that they are leaving Las Vegas tomorrow  
night.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. The lecturer thought that Columbus never realized that he had  
discovered America.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Their parents thought that the teenagers were dancing at the  
disco.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Everybody thinks that she sings beautifully  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. The children reported that their friends were swimming when they  
disappeared.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. People believed that they had killed the animals during the night.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. My friends think that my parents are the best parents in the world.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. They believed that the horse was a present.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11.People are thinking that drugs are very dangerous.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12.They knew that Mr. Brown was stealing iron from the factory.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.Ancient people thought that the stars would fall on them.  
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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. People consider that the team will be classified for the final.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. Everybody says that he settled the business.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rewrite the sentences with the other passive form**

It is said that this orchestra is the best in the world

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It is believed that the thieves have left the country

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The fire is reported to have started by accident

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He is known to be making a lot of money

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It is expected that they will arrive in time for dinner

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She is said to know a lot about gardening

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It is thought that he will be attending the meeting

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It is believed that we are able to win the competition

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The company is thought to be making a big profit

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It is reported that the government has reached a decision

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It is said that they were responsible for the damage

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She is expected to break the world record

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He is known to have several foreign bank accounts

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They are reported to have financial problems

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**Rewrite the sentences using the passive form**

The Police reported that the number of car accidents had increased

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They say hot lemon is one of the best remedies for sore throats

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The doctors claim that this new technique is a revolution for heart problems

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They expect the Queen Mary 2 will arrive in Miami in a couple of weeks

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Everybody thought he did not take the prize for political reasons

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It is believed that many yogis meditate without food or water for weeks

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Scientists think that many unknown mammals still live in the middle of Asian jungles

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All the experts in the congress thought that our wine was the best

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**Rewrite the sentences using the passive form**

People know that she is a good swimmer

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They say that Francis is in the hospital

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They think that the children are in bed

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People believe that the robber has worked in the bank

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People believe that nuclear power stations are dangerous

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His colleagues thought that he was on holiday

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People know that cars pollute the environment

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They suppose that the new product will come out soon

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They found that the mission was impossible

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They believe that she will win a gold medal.

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