

the passive (all forms); *it is said that...*, *he is thought to...*, etc.

the passive (all forms)

present simple	Murderers <b>are</b> usually <b>sentenced</b> to life imprisonment.	4 36)))
present continuous	The trial <b>is being held</b> at the moment.	
present perfect	My car <b>has been stolen</b> .	
past simple	Jim <b>was arrested</b> last month.	
past continuous	The cinema <b>was being rebuilt</b> when it was set on fire.	
past perfect	We saw that one of the windows <b>had been broken</b> .	
future	The prisoner <b>will be released</b> next month. The verdict <b>is going to be given</b> tomorrow.	
infinitive with <i>to</i>	People used <b>to be imprisoned</b> for stealing bread.	
infinitive without <i>to</i>	You can <b>be fined</b> for parking on a yellow line.	
gerund	He paid a fine to avoid <b>being sent</b> to jail.	

- Use the passive when you want to talk about an action, but you are not so interested in saying who or what does / did the action.
- If you also want to mention the person or thing that did the action (the agent), use *by*. However, in the majority of passive sentences the agent is not mentioned.

*it is said that...*, *he is thought to...*, etc.

<b>active</b>	<b>passive</b>	4 37)))
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 They say that the fire was started deliberately. People think that the mayor will resign.</li> <li>2 People say the man is in his 40s. The police believe he has left the country.</li> </ol>	<p><b>It is said that</b> the fire was started deliberately. <b>It is thought that</b> the mayor will resign. <b>The man is said to be</b> in his 40s. <b>He is believed to have left</b> the country.</p>	

- This formal structure is used especially in news reports and on TV with the verbs *know*, *tell*, *understand*, *report*, *expect*, *say*, and *think*. It makes the information sound more impersonal.
- You can use *It is said, believed, etc. + that + clause*.  
You can use *He, The man, etc. (i.e. the subject of the clause) + is said, believed, etc. + to + infinitive (e.g. to be) or perfect infinitive (e.g. to have been)*.

**a** Rewrite the sentences in the passive, without the agent.

- The police caught the burglar immediately.  
*The burglar was caught immediately.*
- 1 Police closed the road after the accident.  
The road...
  - 2 Somebody has stolen my handbag.  
My handbag...
  - 3 They are painting my house.  
My house...
  - 4 They'll hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss the problem.  
A meeting...
  - 5 If they hadn't found the bomb in time, it would have exploded.  
If the bomb...
  - 6 The police can arrest you for driving without a licence.  
You...
  - 7 Miranda thinks someone was following her last night.  
Miranda thinks she...
  - 8 I hate somebody waking me up when I'm fast asleep.  
I hate...
  - 9 They're going to close the local police station.  
The local police station...

**b** Rephrase the sentences in two ways to make them more formal.

- People think the murderer is a woman.  
*It is thought that the murderer is a woman.*  
*The murderer is thought to be a woman.*
- 1 Police believe the burglar is a local man.  
It...  
The burglar...
  - 2 People say the muggers are very dangerous.  
It...  
The muggers...
  - 3 Police think the robber entered through an open window.  
It...  
The robber...
  - 4 Police say the murderer has disappeared.  
It...  
The murderer...
  - 5 Lawyers expect that the trial will last three weeks.  
It...  
The trial...

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