PASSIVE REPORT STRUCTURE / IMPERSONAL PASSIVE

CHAPTER 13

GRADE XI

Compiled by:
Theresia Riya Vernalita H, S.Pd
Impersonal construction is used to report what people say or believe, don’t know, or don’t want to say, who exactly the ‘people’ are. The verbs that refer to saying or thinking (calculate, claim, consider, discover, estimate, expect, feel, hope, prove, report, show, understand, think, believe, say, report, know, consider, presume, hope…) are often followed by a to-infinitive form in the passive.

Example:

The idea can be expressed in two different ways. Those are:

A. **Subject + passive of reporting verb + ‘to´ infinitive**

People say that Bandung is a nice city → Bandung is said to be a nice city

The same idea can be expressed by using the passive in two different ways: a) subject + passive of reporting verb + ‘to´ infinitive Hundreds of thousands of birds are believed to have died. b) It + passive of reporting verb + that + clause It is believed that hundreds of thousands of birds died

**IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS TYPE OF PASSIVE SENTENCE:**

1. Take the subject of the second sentence: **Paris**
2. Passive verb of the Reporting verb in the same tense as in the active: **is said**
3. The verb of the second sentence in the Infinitive form: **to be**

There are **FOUR INFINITIVE FORMS**, which we will use depending on the tense we have in the active sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple</th>
<th>To write</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>To be writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>To have written</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfect Continuous</td>
<td>To have been writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHICH FORM OF THE INFINITIVE DO WE USE?

- If it carries an idea of present or future ➔ Simple: to write
- If 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They say she works hard</td>
<td>She is said to work hard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They say she played well</td>
<td>She is said to have played well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They said she has done well</td>
<td>She was said to have done well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They believe he is having an answer</td>
<td>He is believed to be having an answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They believe he is having an answer</td>
<td>He is believed to be having an answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They believe he has been having an answer</td>
<td>He is believed to have been having an answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She believes the repairs have been finished</td>
<td>The repairs are believed to have been finished.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. It + passive of reporting verb + that + clause

Example:
People believe that English is the most widely spoken language ➔ It is believed that English is the most widely spoken language.
EXERCISES

Change the sentences into passive report structure

Example:
Police have reported that it was Peter who caused the accident.
- It has been reported that it was Peter who caused the accident.
- Peter has been reported to have caused the accident.

1. A journalist reports that they are leaving Las Vegas tomorrow night.
   - It______________________________________________________________
   - They___________________________________________________________

2. The lecturer thought that Columbus never realized that he had discovered America.
   - It______________________________________________________________
   - Columbus _____________________________________________________

3. Their parents thought that the teenagers were dancing at the disco.
   - It______________________________________________________________
   - The teenagers ________________________________________________

4. Everybody thinks that she sings beautifully
   ____________________________________________________________________

5. The children reported that their friends were swimming when they disappeared.
   ____________________________________________________________________

6. People believed that they had killed the animals during the night.
   ____________________________________________________________________

7. My friends think that my parents are the best parents in the world.
   ____________________________________________________________________

8. People are thinking that drugs are very dangerous.
   ____________________________________________________________________
9. Everybody says that he settled the business.

10. The reporters believed that the meeting would finish soon.

11. They have thought the sportsmen are arriving today.

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

13. The newspapers are reporting that the most outstanding athletes represent their country.

14. The shareholders thought that the group had rejected the offer.

15. People think that neither side wanted war.
   Neither side is _____________________________________________

16. People say that fewer than 1,000 blue whales survive in the southern hemisphere.
   Fewer _____________________________________________________________

17. Everyone knows that eating fruit is good for you.
   Eating fruit ________________________________

18. People consider that one in three bathing beaches is unfit for swimming. One in three bathing beaches _________________________________________

19. At least 130,000 dolphins are reported to be caught in the nets of tuna fishers every year.
   It is _______________________________________________________________

20. They felt that the cost was too high.
21. Forecasters have predicted that the weekend will be very cold.

22. They don't think that the government will call an early election.

23. Experts are suggesting that inflation will remain steady.

24. We had understood that the hostages would be released yesterday.

25. Officials have announced that the princess will leave hospital next week.