

# Cases when the passive voice is used

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- when **the agent** (the person who does the action) is **unknown, unimportant or obvious** from the context. *The door **had been locked**. (we don't know who locked it – unknown agent) Repairs **are being made** to the car. (by the mechanic – obvious agent)*
- when we are interested more in the action than the person who carries it out, such as in **news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements, etc.** *The whole area **was evacuated**. (news report) Breakfast **is served** from 6.00 to 10.30. (formal notice)*
- to make **statements** more **formal or polite**. *"My new dress **has been ruined**". (more polite than saying "You ruined my dress").*
- to put **emphasis** on the agent. *The Pyramids were built **by the ancient Egyptians**.*

The Weather  
Alpena, Mich. (UPI)  
November 6, 1957

# THE ALPENA NEWS

Northwestern Michigan's Newspaper

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1957

## 33 LOST, 2 SAVED

### VICTOR LAKES STORM TAKES TOLL

#### Searchers Find 18 Bodies From Rogers City Vessel

**ALPENA, Mich.**—A rescue effort which began early today in the aftermath of a storm on Lake Michigan, which swept across the state late Tuesday, has resulted in the recovery of 18 bodies from the Rogers City vessel, the *Alpena*, which was reported missing after leaving the city late Tuesday night.

The bodies were found by a search party which included members of the local fire department, the Michigan State Police, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The bodies were found in the vicinity of the Rogers City vessel, which was reported missing after leaving the city late Tuesday night.

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**Rogers City Weeps for 23 Seaman's Sons**

**ALPENA, Mich.**—A group of about 200 people gathered today in the Rogers City school to mourn the loss of 23 seamen's sons who were killed in the storm on Lake Michigan late Tuesday night.

The group included members of the local fire department, the Michigan State Police, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The group was led by the Rogers City school principal, who read a list of the names of the 23 seamen's sons who were killed in the storm.

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**"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" THEN TRAGEDY**

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Los Angeles Times 9 AM FINAL

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 6, 1957

# MYSTERY AIR OBJECTS SEEN IN SKY OVER L.A.

## Join Russia in 'Commonwealth of Sputniks,' Khrushchev Proposes to U.S., Other Nations

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 (AP)**—Observing the 40th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, Premier Nikita Khrushchev tonight made a surprise proposal to the American people.

The topic, "Science and Security," was the one chosen for a speech which previously had been scheduled for Nov. 11 at Oklahoma City.

**Wide Area Covered by Reports**

Three unidentified flying objects last reported over Texas and the Gulf of Mexico were spotted over Southern California late yesterday.

Reports of unidentified flying objects discovered police patrolmen in the west and southeast portions of the day. They were seen at night.

**Knight to Enter Race for Senate**

**AT SAN FRANCISCO**—The Washington Post reported today that Sen. Frank B. Rowland, D-Calif., tonight today announced his withdrawal as a candidate for the U.S. Senate in the 1960 election.

**Addresses Jubilee Session**

**MOSCOW, Nov. 5 (Wednesday)**—Communist Party boss Nikita Khrushchev called again today for a "high level" summit meeting to work on an end to world tension.

**PRESIDENT MOVES UP SPEECH TO TOMORROW**

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 (AP)**—Observing the 40th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, President Dwight D. Eisenhower tonight made a surprise proposal to the American people.

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6

Rewrite the newspaper headlines as complete sentences.

1

**CHILD RESCUED  
FROM FIRE YESTERDAY**

4

**NEW  
HARRY POTTER** *FILM*  
*SCREENED NEXT MONTH*

2

**BY  
S**

5

**MONEY BEING RAISED  
FOR HOMELESS**

3

**MISSING PAINTING  
NOT YET RECOVERED**

6

1

2

3

4

5

6

List the verbs that **can't be**  
changed into the passive



- Only transitive verbs (verbs followed by an object) can be changed into the passive.

active: *Mary feeds the dogs.* (transitive verb)

passive: *The dogs are fed by Mary.*

but: *They sleep early every night.* (The verb sleep in this sentence is intransitive; not followed by an object. The sentence cannot be changed into the passive.)

Some transitive verbs, such as *have, fit, suit, resemble, etc.* cannot be changed into the passive. *She resembles her father in many ways.*

*\*belong, have (own), lack, resemble, suit, occur, rise, happen, arise, fall, exist, consist (of), depend (on), result (from).*

The following sentences cannot be made passive:

*Joanne has two brothers.*

*Does this bag belong to you?*

*Unfortunately, Friday doesn't suit me.*

# Modal verbs in the passive voice

*Active: You **can make** pancakes on a stove.*

*Passive: Pancakes can...*

## Modal Verbs in the Passive Voice

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
can	keep	be kept
should	be keeping	
ought to	have kept	have been kept
may	have been kept	
might		
must		
have to		

He must post this letter.	→	<i>This letter <b>must be posted</b>.</i>
They have to clean their house.	→	<i>Their house <b>has to be cleaned</b>.</i>
You should have told me about it.	→	<i>I <b>should have been told</b> about it.</i>

10

Study the example and rewrite the sentences.

*You shouldn't invite Peter to your party.*

*Peter **shouldn't be invited** to your party.*

1 Pupils mustn't chew gum in the classroom.

Gum .....

2 He must deliver this parcel right away.

This .....

4 We must wear formal clothes to the reception.

Formal clothes .....

5 She has to make all the preparations for the party.

All the preparations .....

6 We don't have to clean the bedroom now.

The bedroom .....

7 We should take the child to his parents' house.

The child .....



Active: Нужно делать домашнее задание!

Home task should ....

Vs.

Active: Нужно было (с)делать домашнее задание (когда ты был студентом)

Home task should ...

**S + modal verb + have + been + past participle**

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*Peter shouldn't be invited to your party.*

1 Pupils mustn't chew gum in the classroom.

Gum .....

2 He must deliver this parcel right away.

This .....

3 He can't have broken the vase.

The .....

4 We must wear formal clothes to the reception.

Formal clothes .....

5 She has to make all the preparations for the party.

All the preparations .....

6 We don't have to clean the bedroom now.

The bedroom .....

7 We should take the child to his parents' house.

The child .....

## S + modal verb + have + been + past participle

1. You **may** have operated the computer.
2. He **might** have watched movie.
3. He **must** have attended the workshop.
4. You **should** have done something about global warming.

**15 Complete the sentences using the passive and the modals below.**

must

shouldn't

might

can't

- 1 A: Has the rubbish been collected yet?  
B: Well, it's not here now so it *must have been collected*.
- 2 A: Did anyone tell David about the meeting?  
B: He's written it in his diary so he .....
- 3 A: Has anyone repaired the telephone?  
B: I've just used it so it .....
- 4 A: Was Sue injured in the car accident?  
B: She ..... I heard there were a few casualties.
- 5 A: Did anyone move the accident victim?  
B: Yes, but he ..... It was a mistake to touch him.
- 6 A: Ted said someone stole his car. Is that true?  
B: No. It ..... I've just seen him driving it.

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

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.'



## Personal & Impersonal Construction

Hope, consider, say, think, believe, report, expect, claim, know, etc can be used in the following passive structures:

Form	Examples
Personal Structure subject + passive verb + full infinitive	<i>He is said to be an excellent pianist.</i> <i>She is thought to be living in America.</i>
Impersonal Structure It + passive verb + that + clause	<i>It is said that he is an excellent pianist.</i> <i>It has been reported that she is living in America.</i>



Study the examples and rewrite the sentences.

*They believe that smoking causes cancer.*

a *It is believed that smoking causes cancer.*

b *Smoking is believed to cause cancer.*

1 They say that Emma plays the violin very well.

a It .....

b Emma .....

2 They expect that Jude Law will win the Oscar for Best Actor.

a It .....

b Jude Law .....

3 People know that he trains very hard.

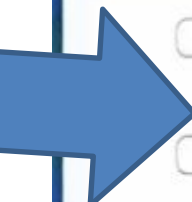
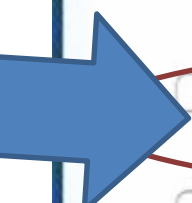
a It .....

b He .....

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

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

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

1. They say that Emma plays the violin very well.

It...

Emma...

2. They expect that he will win the Oskar

It...

He...

3. People know that he trains very hard.

It...

He...



Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 They say she was responsible for the politician's resignation.  
She *is said to have been responsible for the politician's resignation.*
- 2 People think that pirates hid a lot of treasure in the Caribbean.  
Pirates .....
- 3 Experts think that the Japanese are interested in buying the company.  
The Japanese .....
- 5 People say that the miners are ready to accept the new pay offer.  
The miners .....
- 6 Historians know that they stole art treasures during the war.  
They .....





- **They say** he is a very funny fellow

**He is said**

**It is said that**

- **Everyone says** a tornado will hit tomorrow.

**A tornado is said**

**It is said that**

- **They think a boy** is wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt.

**The boy is thought**

**It is thought that**

Пожар **начался** вчера вечером

...

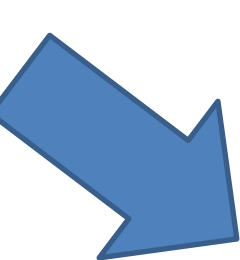
Полагают, что пожар начался вчера  
вечером

...

It is believed that the fire ... last night.

*Если речь идет об отношении к  
действию, совершившемуся ранее,  
употребляется конструкция **to have + past  
participle**.*

The fire is believed to **have started** last night.

- 
- ☐ A friend of mine has been arrested.

**It is alleged that** he hit a policeman.

or He **is alleged to have hit** a policeman.

- ☐ 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.

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- ☐ **It is reported that** two people were  
injured in the explosion.

or Two people **are reported to have  
been injured** in the explosion.

- An old lady in my town died last week, and people **say** that she gave a lot of money to charity

**It is said that** she ... a lot of money to charity.

**She is said to** ...a lot of money to charity.

- According to news reports, the robber stole three million euros.

**It is believed that** the robber ...

**He is believed to**

10

Complete the sentences, as in the example.

- 1 It is expected that she will pass the test easily.  
She *is expected to pass the test easily*.
- 2 It is said that the children were the cause of the damage.  
The children .....
- 3 He is considered to be the best football player in the country.  
It .....
- 4 They believe that he attended the wedding.  
He .....

- 5 The news presenter reported that the criminal has escaped.  
The criminal .....
- 6 People think that he stole the paintings.  
He .....
- 7 He is said to have lived in France last year.  
It .....
- 8 The company is thought to be losing a lot of money.  
It .....

Home task (6-8)



**Кем была написана книга?**

**Кем подписан документ?**

- In passive questions with *who/whom/which* we do not omit *by*.  
*Who gave you this book?* → **Who** were you given this book **by**?  
*Who signed the letter?* → **Who** was this letter signed **by**?