

GRAMMAR 2

THE PASSIVE: IMPERSONAL & PERSONAL STRUCTURES

These verbs are often used in passive voice:

believe

consider

know

expect

say

report

suppose

think

IMPERSONAL STRUCTURES

it + passive verb + **that** + clause

Many people believe that magazines should be cheaper. (active voice)

It is believed that magazines should be cheaper.
(passive voice)

PERSONAL STRUCTURES

noun + passive verb + **full infinitive**

Many people say that teenagers spend too much time surfing the Net. (active voice)

Teenagers are said to spend too much time
surfing the Net. (passive voice)

Answer these tasks (Task 3 & 4 page 89)

3 Read the sentences and write **I** (for impersonal passive structure) or **P** (for personal structure).

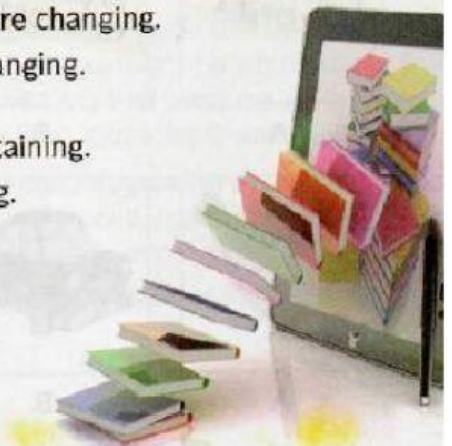
- 1 He is considered to be one of the best journalists in the world. —
- 2 It is believed that this play was written by Shakespeare. —
- 3 The magazine is known to be informative and colourful. —
- 4 It is reported that there has been a decrease in the sale of newspapers. —
- 5 The columnist is supposed to be knowledgeable about fashion. —
- 6 Teenagers are believed to be the most frequent users of the Net. —
- 7 The robber is said to be on the run from the police. —
- 8 It is expected that this video will go viral. —

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Complete the sentences using impersonal and personal passive structures.

- 1 People know that he stars on the big screen.
a It _____ he stars on the big screen.
b He _____ on the big screen.
- 2 People suppose that e-books are more environmentally friendly than printed books.
a It _____ e-books are more environmentally friendly than printed books.
b E-books _____ more environmentally friendly than printed books.
- 3 People say that the newspaper story is untrue.
a It _____ the newspaper story is untrue.
b The newspaper story _____ untrue.
- 4 People think that she is making a name for herself by being unusual.
a It _____ she is making a name for herself by being unusual.
b She _____ making a name for herself by being unusual.
- 5 People believe that attitudes towards the media are changing.
a It _____ attitudes towards the media are changing.
b Attitudes towards the media _____ changing.
- 6 People consider horoscopes to be fun and entertaining.
a It _____ horoscopes are fun and entertaining.
b Horoscopes _____ fun and entertaining.
- 7 People expect the film to win an award.
a It _____ the film will win an award.
b The film _____ an award.
- 8 People report that the newspaper is closing.
a It _____ the newspaper is closing.
b The newspaper _____ closing.



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