

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

a Check what you know. You are going to read two true crime stories. In *World Cup thief's own goal* complete the article with the verb in brackets in the past simple active or passive. Then in *Parrot held in prison*, circle the right form.

Any problems? **Workbook p.25**

World Cup thief's own goal

A thief who ¹ _____ (steal) a World Cup ticket from a woman's handbag ² _____ (catch) after he sat down to watch the game next to the victim's husband.

Eva Standmann, 42, ³ _____ (mug) as she was going to the Munich stadium for the game between Brazil and Australia. The thief, a 34-year-old man, ⁴ _____ (discover) the ticket in her bag and he decided to use it.

But when he ⁵ _____ (take) the woman's seat in the stadium, he ⁶ _____ (meet) by her husband Berndt, 43, who immediately called the police on his mobile.

A Munich police spokesman said, 'The thief ⁷ _____ (find) the ticket in the bag and decided to watch the game. When he sat down next to his victim's husband, officers on duty at the stadium ⁸ _____ (inform) of the situation and the thief ⁹ _____ (arrest).'



Parrot held in prison

A parrot has spent five days ¹ *interrogating / being interrogated* by police in a prison in Argentina.

A judge ² *ordered / was ordered* the parrot, which ³ *calls / is called* Pepo, ⁴ *to hold / to be held* in custody until he told police who his real owner was. Two neighbours, Jorge Machado and Rafael Vega, were disputing who the bird ⁵ *belonged / was belonged* to.

Judge Osvaldo Carlos decided the parrot should ⁶ *send / be sent* to prison until he said the name of his owner. After five days, Pepo said Jorge's name and also sung the anthem of his favourite football team, San Lorenzo. Mr Machado said, 'I knew he wasn't going to let me down. He is a real friend and we ⁷ *support / are supported* the same football team.'



b New grammar. Read another true story. How does the hypnotist rob banks?

Hypnotic bank robber



Bank clerks in Moldova have been told by the police not to make eye contact with customers after a series of robberies. **The robber is believed to be a trained hypnotist from Russia.**

He is said to put cashiers into a trance before making them hand over tens of thousands of dollars' worth of notes.

It is thought that the criminal begins talking to bank tellers and gradually hypnotizes them. After getting them to give him money, he then brings them back out of the trance and leaves them with no memory of handing over the cash. **It is believed that** the man has robbed at least three banks in the last month.

c Look at the **highlighted** phrases. Do people *know* this information for sure about the robber or do they only *suspect* it? How is the structure different after *he* and after *it*?

d **p.136 Grammar Bank 3A.** Read the rules and do the exercises.

e Complete the newspaper crime story using the words in brackets.

Britain's most polite armed robber

Police in Stockport in the UK are looking for a man who ¹ _____ (believe / be) Britain's most polite armed robber.

The robber, who always says 'please' and 'thank you' when he orders shop staff to give him the money in the till, ² _____ (say / be) a tall man in his early forties.

He wears a mask and washing-up gloves during robberies. It ³ _____ (think / he / rob) at least four shops in Stockport in recent weeks.

A police officer said, 'He ⁴ _____ (report / be) polite to his victims, but there is nothing polite about armed robbery. Last week this man used a knife to threaten shop staff. They were terrified. Saying "please" and "thank you" cannot change that.'