



## Grammar 2

## The passive: impersonal and personal structures

### 1 Read about impersonal and personal structures.

We often use verbs like *believe, consider, know, expect, say, report, suppose* and *think* in the passive voice. They can be used in an impersonal or a personal passive structure.

We form the impersonal passive structure with *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)

We form the personal passive structure with *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)

### 2 Read the sentences and underline the passive verbs they contain. Which sentence uses an impersonal passive structure?

- It is known that advertisements sell products.
- Advertisements are known to sell products.

Read 7.2 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

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

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

### 4 Complete the sentences using impersonal and personal passive structures.

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

