PASSIVE VOICE 3

A 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.'

You can use these structures with a number of other verbs, especially:

alleged believed considered expected known reported thought understood

Compare the two structures:

- Cathy loves running.
  It is said that she runs ten miles a day. *or* She **is said to run** ten miles a day.
- The police are looking for a missing boy.
  It is believed that the boy is wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. *or* The boy **is believed to be wearing** a white sweater and blue jeans.
- The strike started three weeks ago.
  It is expected that the strike will end soon. *or* The strike **is expected to end** soon.
- 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.

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

- **It is reported that** two people were injured in the explosion. *or* Two people **are reported to have been injured** in the explosion.

B **(Be) supposed to**

Sometimes **(it is) supposed to** ... = (it is) said to ... :

- I want to see that film. It**'s supposed to be** good. (= it is said to be good)
- Fireworks **are supposed to have been invented** in China. Is it true?

But sometimes **supposed to** has a different meaning. We use **supposed to** to say what is intended, arranged or expected. Often this is different from the real situation:

- The plan **is supposed to be** a secret, but everybody seems to know about it.
  (= the plan is intended to be a secret)
- What are you doing at work? You**'re supposed to be** on holiday.
  (= you arranged to be on holiday)
- Our guests **were supposed to come** at 7.30, but they were late.
- Jane **was supposed to phone** me last night, but she didn't.
- I'd better hurry. I**'m supposed to be meeting** Chris in ten minutes.

You're **not supposed to** do something = it is not allowed or advisable:

- You're **not supposed to park** your car here. It's private parking only.
- Jeff is much better after his illness, but he's still **not supposed to do** any heavy work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

45.1 **Write these sentences in another way, beginning as shown. Use the underlined word each time.**

1 It is expected that the strike will end soon. The strike is expected to end soon.
2 It is expected that the weather will be good tomorrow.
The weather is .....
3 It is believed that the thieves got in through a window in the roof.
The thieves .....
4 It is reported that many people are homeless after the floods.
Many people .....
5 It is thought that the prisoner escaped by climbing over a wall.
The prisoner .....
6 It is alleged that the man was driving at 110 miles an hour.
The man .....
7 It is reported that the building has been badly damaged by the fire.
The building .....
8 a It is said that the company is losing a lot of money.
The company .....
b It is believed that the company lost a lot of money last year.
The company .....
c It is expected that the company will make a loss this year.
The company .....

45.2 **There are a lot of rumours about Alan. Here are some of the things people say about him:**

1 Alan speaks ten languages.
2 He knows a lot of famous people.
3 He is very rich.
4 He has twelve children.
5 He was an actor when he was younger.

Alan

Nobody is sure whether these things are true. Write sentences about Alan using supposed to.

1 Alan is supposed to speak ten languages.
2 He .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....

45.3 **Complete the sentences using supposed to be + the following:**

on a diet **a flower** **my friend** **a joke** ~~**a secret**~~ **working**

1 How is it that everybody seems to know about the plan? It is supposed to be a secret.
2 You shouldn't criticise me all the time. You .....
3 I shouldn't be eating this cake really. I .....
4 I'm sorry for what I said. I was trying to be funny. It .....
5 What's this drawing? Is it a tree? Or maybe it .....
6 You shouldn't be reading the paper now. You .....

45.4 **Write sentences with supposed to + the following verbs:**

block **depart** ~~**park**~~ **phone** **start**

Use the negative (not supposed to) where necessary.

1 You 're not supposed to park here. It's private parking only.
2 We ..... work at 8.15, but we rarely do anything before 8.30.
3 Oh, I ..... Helen last night, but I completely forgot.
4 This door is a fire exit. You ..... it.
5 My flight ..... at 11.30, but it was an hour late.

LIVEWORKSHEETS