

# it is said that ... he is said to ... he is supposed to ...

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**

- |                                                                                                                                                     |    |                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathy loves running.<br><b>It is said that</b> she runs 10 miles a day.                                                    | or | <b>She is said to</b> run 10 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 | <b>The boy is believed to</b> be wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The strike started three weeks ago.<br><b>It is expected that</b> it will end soon.                                        | or | <b>The strike is expected to</b> end soon.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friend of mine has been arrested.<br><b>It is alleged that</b> he stole a car.                                           | or | <b>He is alleged to</b> have stolen a car.                               |
| <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 | <b>There is said to</b> be 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 | <b>Two people are reported to</b> have been injured in the explosion. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|

B

**supposed to ...**You can use **supposed to ...** in the same way as **said to ...**:

- ☐ I want to see that film. **It's supposed to be** good. (= people say it's good)
- ☐ There are many stories about Joe. **He's supposed to have robbed** a bank many years ago.
- ☐ Fireworks **are supposed to have been invented** in China. Is it true?

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 advised:

- ☐ **You're not supposed to park** your car here. It's private parking only.
- ☐ Joe is much better after his illness, but **he's not supposed to exercise** too hard.

**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 reported that many people are homeless after the floods.  
Many people .....
- 3 It is thought that the thieves got in through a window in the roof.  
The thieves .....
- 4 It is alleged that the driver of the car was driving at 110 miles an hour.  
The driver .....
- 5 It is reported that the building has been badly damaged by the fire.  
The building .....
- 6 It is said that the company is losing a lot of money.  
The company .....
- 7 It is believed that the company lost a lot of money last year.  
The company .....
- 8 It is expected that the company will make a loss this year.  
The company .....

**45.2 Complete the sentences. Use the words in brackets and any other necessary words.**

- 1 A: What's the City Hotel like? Can you recommend it?  
B: I've never stayed there, but it's supposed to be (it / supposed) very good.
- 2 A: How much are these paintings worth?  
B: I'm not sure, but ..... (they / supposed) very valuable.
- 3 A: This looks an interesting building.  
B: Yes, ..... (it / supposed) a prison a long time ago.
- 4 A: Is it true that your neighbours were lucky in the lottery?  
B: Yes, ..... (they / supposed / win) a lot of money.
- 5 A: Is it possible to climb to the top of the tower?  
B: Yes, ..... (the view / supposed) very nice.
- 6 A: I heard that Laura has gone away.  
B: Yes, ..... (she / supposed / living) in London now.

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

on a diet    a flower    my friend    a joke    open every day    a secret    working

- 1 How is it that everybody knows about the plan? It's 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 playing a game now. ....
- 7 That's strange. The museum seems to be closed. ....

**45.4 Write sentences with supposed to ... or not supposed to .... Choose from the following verbs:**

depart    lift    park    phone    put    start

- 1 You 're not supposed to park your car here. It's private parking only.
- 2 We ..... work at 8.15, but we rarely do anything before 8.30.
- 3 I ..... Helen last night, but I completely forgot.
- 4 This door is a fire exit. We ..... anything in front of it.
- 5 My flight ..... at 10.15, but it didn't leave until 11.30.
- 6 Jonathan has a problem with his back. He ..... anything heavy.