

# UNIT 6

## The Passive

### Personal / Impersonal Construction

The verbs **think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, understand, etc.** are used in the following passive patterns in personal and impersonal constructions.

**active:** People **say** that he **has lost** his job.

**passive:** a) **It is said** (that) he **has lost** his job.  
(impersonal construction)

b) **He is said to have lost** his job. (personal construction)

**active:** People **know** that she **works hard**.

**passive:** c) **It is known** (that) she **works hard**.  
d) **She is known to work hard**.

**active:** People **think** he **left** the country last night.

**passive:** e) **It is thought** (that) he **left** the country last night.

f) **He is thought to have left** the country last night.

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**Complete the sentences, as in the example.**

- 1 It is expected that he will win the race tomorrow.  
He *is expected to win the race tomorrow*....
- 2 It is thought that the school has good teachers.  
The school .....
- 3 It is said that she speaks seven languages.  
She .....
- 4 It is believed that the missing jewellery has been found.  
The missing jewellery .....
- 5 It is thought that she is a talented pianist.  
She .....
- 6 It is said that the athletes train for eight hours every day.  
The athletes .....
- 7 It is expected that the American team will break the world record.  
The American team .....
- 8 It is known that she is hiding somewhere in the city.  
She .....
- 9 It is reported that the world leaders have reached an agreement.  
The world leaders .....
- 10 It is reported that the thieves have escaped from prison.  
The thieves .....
- 11 It is expected that they will give her the prize.  
She .....

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**Rewrite the sentences in the passive.**

- 1 Ellie will take the children to school.  
*...The children will be taken to school by Ellie...*
- 2 He cut the grass with the new lawnmower yesterday.  
.....
- 3 Did they show the fire on the news?  
.....
- 4 Emma is showing them the photographs.  
.....
- 5 When did the wind blow down the tree?  
.....
- 6 Who has to sign these papers?  
.....
- 7 Amanda hates people staring at her.  
.....
- 8 She expects her boss to offer her a promotion.  
.....
- 9 He has to tidy his bedroom.  
.....
- 10 Will you have completed the task by Friday evening?  
.....
- 11 Terry offered her a lift to work.  
.....
- 12 Who teaches traditional dance at this school?  
.....
- 13 People often stuff turkeys with chestnut stuffing.  
.....
- 14 They awarded him a prize for his competition entry.  
.....
- 15 Will they play the tennis match on an indoor court?  
.....
- 16 Tom doesn't like people asking him personal questions.  
.....
- 17 Everyone must learn the poem by heart.  
.....
- 18 Jean hadn't cleaned the house by the time her husband arrived.  
.....
- 19 Who is going to welcome the guests?  
.....
- 20 We cook all the meals.  
.....
- 21 Grandmother takes care of the children.  
.....
- 22 Kate is choosing a new carpet at the moment.  
.....
- 23 Had Stuart washed the car before he went to the cinema?  
.....
- 24 Peter gave Jane a letter.  
.....
- 25 Who made all these cakes?  
.....