

Passive with reporting verbs

There are a number of verbs which follow a special pattern in order to form the passive. These verbs are mainly: *say, allege, believe, consider, expect, know, report, think, understand.*

They say that Mary has an affair with a famous actor.

It is said that Mary has an affair with a famous actor. (Impersonal structure)

Mary is said to have an affair with a famous actor.

- It is believed that they **are going** out together.
They are believed **to be going** out together. (infinitive in a continuous form)
- It is said that he **bought** a new house.
He is said **to have bought** a new house. (Perfect Infinitive)
- It is said that they **will get married**.
They are said **to get married**. (Present Infinitive)
- It is said that they **were going** out before he came to Spain.
- They are said **to have been going** out before he came to Spain. (perfect infinitive in a continuous form)

PRACTICE

1. Change the following sentences from active to passive:

- a. They say he is a spy.
It is said that _____.
He _____.
- b. They say he was a thief.
It is said that _____.
He _____.
- c. People know that he is married.
It is known that _____.
He _____.
- d. Journalists say that they will do a new film together.
It is said that _____.
They _____.