

Impersonal passives

1. People say that he was a spy during the Cold War.
2. They know that the robbers took all the money and the jewels.
3. The police think that they were in the building on the night of the crime.
4. People believe that the kidnappers have killed the Prime Minister.
5. We consider that she was the best opera singer in the world.
6. People thought that it was unnecessary to send a telegram to warn them.
7. They believe that the ship has sunk near Alaska.
8. They say that a princess once lived there.
9. They said that the party was fantastic.
10. That newspaper says that the Britney is expecting a baby.
11. Some people think that the portrait was painted by Rubens.
12. The students have said that Helen is the most beautiful girl in the college this term.
13. People expect that the Home Secretary will resign after the scandal.
14. Most people believed that he had been telling the truth.
15. The radio reports that all the flights have been cancelled because of the fog.
16. The newspaper says that they will consider her for the job.
17. The radio reports that the Cabinet has resigned.
18. Everybody knows that this car is the most expensive one in the world.
19. The newspaper said that the man had his throat cut.
20. People believe that politics solve all human problems.
21. They judged that our garden was the best in the village last year.
22. Everybody thought that the President was very angry with them all.
23. The police reported that the burglar set fire to the house because he didn't find anything to steal there.
24. A long time ago people thought that she was a witch.
25. They know that the expedition reached the North Pole in July.
26. Some people expect that scientists will find a cure for AIDS in a very short time.
27. The police say that the terrorists were trying to leave the country then.

ANSWER KEY:

1. It is said that he was a spy during the Cold War. / He is said to have been a spy during the Cold War.
2. It is known that the robbers took all the money and the jewels. / The robbers are known to have taken all the money and the jewels.
3. It is thought that they were in the building on the night of the crime. / They are thought to have been in the building on the night of the crime.
4. It is believed that the kidnappers have killed the Prime Minister. / The kidnappers are believed to have killed the Prime Minister.
5. It is considered that she was the best opera singer in the world. / She is considered to have been the best opera singer in the world.
6. It was thought that it was unnecessary to send a telegram to warn them. / It was thought to have been unnecessary to send a telegram to warn them.
7. It is believed that the ship has sunk near Alaska. / The ship is believed to have sunk near Alaska.
8. It is said that a princess once lived there. / A princess is said to have once lived there.
9. It was said that the party was fantastic. / The party was said to have been fantastic.
10. It is said that Britney is expecting a baby. / Britney is said to be expecting a baby.
11. It is thought that the portrait was painted by Rubens. / The portrait is thought to have been painted by Rubens.
12. It has *been said that Helen is the most beautiful girl in the college this term.* / Helen has been said to be the most beautiful girl in the college this term.
13. It is expected that the Home Secretary will resign after the scandal. / The Home Secretary is expected to resign after the scandal.
14. It was believed that he had been telling the truth. / He was believed to have been telling the truth.
15. It is reported that all the flights have been cancelled because of the fog. / All the flights are reported to have been cancelled because of the fog.
16. It is said that they will consider her for the job. / They are said to consider her for the job.
17. It is reported that the Cabinet has resigned. / The Cabinet is reported to have resigned.
18. It is known that this car is the most expensive one in the world. / This car is known to be the most expensive one in the world.
19. It was said that the man had his throat cut. / The man was said to have had his throat cut.
20. It is believed that politics solve all human problems. / Politics are believed to solve all human problems.
21. It was judged that our garden was the best in the village last year. / Our garden was judged to have been the best in the village last year.
22. It was thought that the President was very angry with them all. / The President was thought to have been very angry with them all.
23. It was reported that the burglar set fire to the house because he didn't find anything to steal there. / The burglar was reported to have set fire to the house because he didn't find anything to steal there.
24. A long time ago it was thought that she was a witch. / A long time ago she was thought to have been a witch.
25. It is known that the expedition reached the North Pole in July. / The expedition is known to have reached the North Pole in July.
26. It is expected that scientists will find a cure for AIDS in a very short time. / Scientists are expected to find a cure for AIDS in a very short time.
27. It is said that the terrorists were trying to leave the country then. / The terrorists are said to have been trying to leave the country then.