Reporting with passives

*We can use passive structures with infinitives in formal writing to report opinions and beliefs.*

**Present and Future – use an infinitive (to be, to affect)**

Many people think Messi is the best player ever.

Messi **is thought** to be the best player ever.

Scientists know that pollen allergy affects a lot of people.

Pollen allergies **are known** to affect a lot of people.

Journalists expect that the president will give a speech at 2pm.

The president **is expected** to give a speech at 2pm.

**Past – use a perfect infinitive (to have been, to have made, to have done)**

Experts think that Van Gogh painted the painting in 1888.

Van Gogh **is thought** to have painted the painting in 1888.

The police think he killed his wife.

He **is thought** to have killed his wife.

Verbs used in this way included: **believe, consider, estimate, expect, know, report, say, think, understand and “to be rumoured”.**

Practice:

**Change the second sentence using the passive structure.**

1. Experts say that 8 hours sleep is the perfect amount.

8 hours sleep \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. They expect that 2000 people will attend the festival.

2000 people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Police think that the stolen money is buried in the garden.

The stolen money \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. There are rumours that Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez are dating again.

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Experts estimate that 20 people died in the fire.

20 people\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Journalists report that Kanye West and Kim Kardashian have broken up.

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Scientists believe that the big bang happened 13.7 billion years ago.

The big bang\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.