

PASSIVE OF REPORTING VERBS / IMPERSONAL PASSIVE

Verbs that refer to saying or thinking (**think, believe, say, report, know, consider, presume, hope...**) are often followed by a to-infinitive form in the passive.

Example: The police **think** he **is** in Argentina.
He **is thought to be** in Argentina.

There are **FOUR INFINITIVE FORMS**, which we will use depending on the tense we have in the active sentence.

Simple	to write	escribir
Continuous	to be writing	estar escribiendo
Perfect	to have written	haber escrito
Perf. Continuous	to have been writing	haber estado escribiendo

IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS TYPE OF PASSIVE SENTENCE, WE

- 1 Take the subject of the second sentence: **He**
- 2 Passive verb of the Reporting verb in the same tense as in the active: **is thought**
- 3 The verb of the second sentence in the Infinitive form: **to be**

WHICH FORM OF THE INFINITIVE DO WE USE?

- If it carries an **idea of present or future** → Simple: **to write**
- If it carries an **idea of past**, whatever the tense (Past Simple, Past Perfect, Present Perfect) → Perfect: **to have written**.
- If either of them are in a **continuous form**, you use the adequate Infinitive continuous form → **to be writing** or **to have been writing**

SOME MORE EXAMPLES:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
They <i>say</i> she works hard.	She <i>is said</i> to work hard.
They <i>say</i> she played well.	She <i>is said</i> to have played well.
They <i>said</i> she has done well.	She <i>was said</i> to have done well.
They <i>believe</i> he is having an affair.	He <i>is believed</i> to be having an affair.
They <i>believe</i> he has been having an affair.	He <i>is believed</i> to have been having an affair.
She <i>believes</i> the repairs have been finished .	The repairs <i>are believed</i> to have been finished .

GET / HAVE SOMETHING DONE (Passive Voice)

This construction is passive in meaning. It may describe situations where we want someone else to do something for us.

Examples

- *I must **get / have my hair cut**.*
- *When are you going to **get that window mended**?*
- *We're **having the house painted**.*

If the verb refers to something negative or unwanted, it has the same meaning as a passive sentence:

- *Jim **had his car stolen** last night. (= Jim's car was stolen)*
- *They **had their roof blown off** in the storm. (= Their roof was blown off in the storm)*

The construction can refer to the completion of an activity, especially if a time expression is used:

- *We'll **get the work done** as soon as possible.*
- *I'll **get those letters typed** before lunchtime.*

In all these sentences, we are more interested in the **result** of the activity than in the person or object that performs the activity.

'X' NEEDS DOING

In the same way, this construction has a passive meaning. The important thing in our minds is the person or thing that will experience the action, e.g.

- *The ceiling **needs painting** (= the ceiling needs to be painted)*
- *My hair **needs cutting** (= my hair needs to be cut)*

SOME VERBS HAVE SPECIAL PASSIVE FORMS:

- **MAKE AND HELP**

They are followed by a bare infinitive in the active, but take a **to-infinitive** in the passive

Active:	<i>Her two sisters made him clean the house</i>
Passive:	<i>He was made to clean the house by her two sisters.</i>

- **LET**

In the passive, **let** is replaced by **allowed** and is followed by a to-infinitive.

Active:	<i>The teacher let us leave early</i>
Passive:	<i>We were allowed to leave early (by the teacher)</i>

- **SEE AND HEAR**

Some **verbs of the senses** can be followed by either a **to-infinitive** or a **gerund** form in the passive.

Active:	<i>They heard the baby cry / crying.</i>
Passive:	<i>The baby was heard to cry / crying.</i>