**Impersonal passive**

- **The impersonal passive**: is a formal way of reporting thoughts, saying, beliefs and opinions.

- **The verbs that are used in impersonal passive construction.**
  (Think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, and understand)

- **Examples:**
  - People say that children are afraid of ghosts.
    It is said that children are afraid of ghosts.

  - People say that this orchestra is the best in the world.
    This orchestra is said to be the best in the world.

  - They think that he will be attending the meeting.
    He is thought to be attending the meeting.

  - People say that Mr. Brown owns a lot of land in the north.
    Mr. Brown is said to own a lot of land in the north.

  - People think that learning a new language also presents the brain with unique challenges.
    It is thought that learning a new language also presents the brain with unique challenges.

- **The rule:**
  - (It + passive construction + that-clause)
    - E.g. The students say that the exam was easy.
      It is said that the exam was easy.

  - (S + passive construction + to + inf.)
    - E.g. The students say that the exam was easy.
      The exam is said to have been easy.

- **The passive voice of these verbs (Think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, and understand):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present simple: Is / are +</th>
<th>Thought, believed, said, reported, known, expected, considered, understood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past simple: was / were +</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present perfect simple: have / has been</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Changes on the verbs after (to):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V1(s/es) / V(inf.)</th>
<th>To + V (inf.)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His parents say that he goes to school by bus.</td>
<td>he is said to go to school by bus.</td>
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<tr>
<th>V2</th>
<th>To + Have + V3</th>
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<tr>
<td>People say that this team played well in the match.</td>
<td>this team is said to have played well in the match.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Will + V(inf.)</th>
<th>To + V(inf.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The teachers say that we will go on a school trip.</td>
<td>We are said to go on a school trip.</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Don’t / Doesn’t + V(inf.)</th>
<th>Not to V(inf.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The doctor says that you don’t do daily exercises.</td>
<td>You are said not to do daily exercises.</td>
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<th>Didn’t V(inf.)</th>
<th>Not to have + V3</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mum says that I didn’t have any dangerous diseases in the past.</td>
<td>I am said not to have had any dangerous diseases in the past.</td>
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<th>Isn’t / Aren’t</th>
<th>Not to be</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>The students say that the exam is difficult.</td>
<td>The exam is said to be difficult.</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wasn’t / weren’t</th>
<th>Not to have been</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The students say that the exam was easy.</td>
<td>The exam is said to have been easy.</td>
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</table>

**Exercises:**

1. They say that fish is good for the brain.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - Fish ________________________________________________________.

2. People think that we use a small percentage of our brain power.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - We __________________________________________________________.

3. They claim that we remember things we hear in our sleep.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - We __________________________________________________________.

4. People believe that solving puzzles keeps the brain active.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - Solving puzzles ________________________________________________.

5. Experts have proved that exercise is good for concentration.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - Exercise ______________________________________________________.

6. People say that the exams are disastrous.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - The exam ________________________________________________________.

7. People know that the sun shines itself.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
   - The sun ________________________________________________________.

8. The students say that the exercise wasn’t easy.
   - It __________________________________________________________.
The exercise

9. People believed that Anna stole the money.
   It
   Anna

10. The teacher believes that Ali doesn’t study well.
    It
    Ali

11. Experts think that the weather will be cool.
    It
    The weather

12. They think that the boys didn’t arrive on time.
    It
    The boys

13. It was known that the man was telling the truth.
    People

14. It is believed that learning languages improve your decision-making skills.
    Scientist

15. It is believed that the thieves have left the country.
    People

16. It is known that he is making a lot of money.
    People