



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Passive Reporting in the Media

Media and Communication | It is said that / is believed to | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Where do you see phrases like 'It is believed that...'?
2	Why might journalists avoid saying exactly who made a claim?
3	How can news reports sound more formal?
4	What kind of information should readers check carefully?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Checking Claims in News Stories

During a breaking news story, **it is sometimes claimed that** a short video shows the key parts of an event, but the clip may not include important details.

Some influencers **are said to have** a strong effect on teenage shopping habits, especially when they promote brands in lifestyle posts.

It **is reported** that many people get news from short videos.

3. Notice the pattern

Use passive reporting structures to report claims formally, especially in news, reports and academic-style writing.

Use	Form / signal	Example
It + passive + that	It is claimed/reported that...	It is claimed that the video shows the full event.
Subject + passive + to	is said to / is reported to	Influencers are said to affect shopping habits.
Perfect infinitive	is said to have + past participle	They are said to have influenced teenagers.
Formal distance	avoid naming the source	It is reported that many people get news from short videos.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	People believe that rumours spread quickly.	It is believed that	
2	People say influencers affect shopping habits.	are said to	
3	Reports show that teenagers use short videos for news.	It is reported that	
4	People say the campaign influenced many students.	is said to have	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Discuss why media claims should be checked carefully.
Writing	Write a formal report paragraph using passive reporting structures.
Reading	Underline passive reporting structures in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	It believes that rumours spread quickly.	
2	Influencers are said affect shopping habits.	
3	It is reported teenagers use short videos.	
4	The campaign is said to influenced students.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Why do news reports often sound formal?
2. Should readers trust claims on social media?
3. How can students check whether a story is reliable?
4. Are influencers too powerful in modern media?

Passive Reporting in the Media

4. Build accurate sentences

1. It is believed that rumours spread quickly.
2. Influencers are said to affect shopping habits.
3. It is reported that teenagers use short videos for news.
4. The campaign is said to have influenced many students.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. It is believed that rumours spread quickly.
2. Influencers are said to affect shopping habits.
3. It is reported that teenagers use short videos.
4. The campaign is said to have influenced students.

Notes for checking

1. It + passive + that: It is claimed/reported that... - It is claimed that the video shows the full event.
2. Subject + passive + to: is said to / is reported to - Influencers are said to affect shopping habits.
3. Perfect infinitive: is said to have + past participle - They are said to have influenced teenagers.
4. Formal distance: avoid naming the source - It is reported that many people get news from short videos.