

28 Other passive constructions

Many idioms in English use passive forms. Some idioms use standard rules for passive forms, while others are slightly different.

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28.1 REPORTING WITH PASSIVES

Some passive constructions are used to distance the writer or speaker from the facts. They are often used in academic writing or news reports.



"IT" + PASSIVE REPORTING VERB "THAT" CLAUSE
It has been reported that three sailors have disappeared.

SUBJECT + PASSIVE REPORTING VERB INFINITIVE CLAUSE
The race is known to be extremely dangerous.

"THERE" + PASSIVE REPORTING VERB "TO BE / TO HAVE BEEN"
There are said to be at least 20 boats in the search party.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

It has been rumored that wolves live in these woods.



It has been revealed that some prisoners have escaped.



The worksite is said to be unsafe for workers.



The new school is thought to have the best teachers in the country.



There is thought to be a problem with crime here.



There are said to be pros and cons to moving abroad.



28.2 USING "GET" IN PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

"Get" can sometimes replace "be" in passive sentences. This form is more informal than the passive with "be."



PRESENT SIMPLE PASSIVE

Bikes **get stolen** in this town every day.

My friend's bike **got stolen** yesterday.

PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The windows **get washed** once a month.



This package **got delivered** today. I wonder what it is.



My laptop **gets updated** every week by the IT team.



I hope the air conditioning **will get fixed** soon.



More and more items are **getting recycled** these days.



Did you know that the company **was getting sold**?



HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

His bike

"GET / GOT"

got

PAST PARTICIPLE

stolen

REST OF SENTENCE

yesterday.

The thing that receives the action.

A form of "get" is used instead of "be."

The past participle describes what happens to the subject.