It is said that ... He is said to ... He is supposed to ...

Α

Study this example situation:



George is very old. Nobody knows exactly how old he is, but:

It is said that he is 108 years old.

or He is said to be 108 years old.

Both these sentences mean: 'People say that he is 108 years old.'

You can use these structures with a number of other verbs, especially:

alleged believed considered expected known reported thought understood

Compare the two structures:

Acres .			
	Cathy	LOVAC	running.
	Calliv	IO A C 2	Turning.

It is said that she runs ten miles a day.

- The police are looking for a missing boy. It is believed that the boy is wearing a white sweater and blue jeans.
- The strike started three weeks ago.

 It is expected that the strike will end
- A friend of mine has been arrested.

 It is alleged that he hit a policeman.
- The two houses belong to the same family. It is said that there is a secret tunnel between them.

- or She is said to run ten miles a day.
- or The boy is believed to be wearing a white sweater and blue jeans.
- or The strike is expected to end soon.
- or He is alleged to have hit a policeman.
- or There **is said to be** a secret tunnel between them.

These structures are often used in news reports. For example, in a report about an accident:

- It is reported that two people were injured in the explosion.
- or Two people are reported to have been injured in the explosion.

(Be) supposed to

В

Sometimes (it is) supposed to ... = (it is) said to ... :

- I want to see that film. It's supposed to be good. (= it is said to be good)
- Fireworks are supposed to have been invented in China. Is it true?

But sometimes **supposed to** has a different meaning. We use **supposed to** to say what is intended, arranged or expected. Often this is different from the real situation:

- The plan is supposed to be a secret, but everybody seems to know about it.
- (= the plan is intended to be a secret)
- What are you doing at work? You're supposed to be on holiday.
- (= you arranged to be on holiday)
- Our guests were supposed to come at 7.30, but they were late.
 Jane was supposed to phone me last night, but she didn't.
- I'd better hurry. I'm supposed to be meeting Chris in ten minutes.

You're **not supposed to** do something = it is not allowed or advisable:

- O You're not supposed to park your car here. It's private parking only.
- Jeff is much better after his illness, but he's still not supposed to do any heavy work.

Exercises

	It is expected	that the strike w	vill end soon. The s	trike is expe	ected to end so	on.
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2	It is expected	that the weathe	r will be good tom	orrow.		
	The weather	is				
3	It is believed	that the thieves	got in through a wi	ndow in the ro	of.	
4	It is reported	that many peopl	le are homeless aft	er the floods.		
7	Many people	criat many people				
_	It is thought	that the orisoner	escaped by climbi	ng over a wall		
٥	The prisoner	that the phisoner	escaped by emilion	ing over a main		
_	the prisoner	bat the man was	driving at 110 mile	se an hour		
0						
_	The man	ماد الماد عاد الماد	g has been badly da	marged by the	fire	
1	it is reported	that the building	g has been badly do	illaged by the	ille.	
	The building		:- Ii a lat of m			
8	a It is <u>said</u> th	nat the company	is losing a lot of m	ioney.		
	The comp	any				
	b It is believ	<u>ed</u> that the comp	oany lost a lot of m	noney last year	•0	
	The comp	any		.1.*		
	c It is expec	<u>ted</u> that the com	pany will make a l	oss this year.		
	The comp	any				
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my tot m

Reported speech 1 (He said that ...)

Study this example situation: I'm feeling ill.

You want to tell somebody what Paul said. There are two ways of doing this:

You can repeat Paul's words (direct speech): Paul said 'I'm feeling ill.'

Or you can use reported speech: Paul said that he was feeling ill.

Compare:

direct

am feeling ill.' Paul said '

In writing we use these quotation marks to show direct speech.

reported

Paul said that he was feeling ill.

When we use reported speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past (Paul said that ... / I told her that ... etc.). The rest of the sentence is usually past too:

Paul said that he was feeling ill.

I told Lisa that I didn't have any money.

You can leave out that. So you can say:

Paul said that he was feeling ill. or Paul said he was feeling ill.

In general, the present form in direct speech changes to the past form in reported speech:

am/is → was

 $do/does \rightarrow did$

 $will \rightarrow would$

have/has → had are \rightarrow were

 $can \rightarrow could$

want/like/know/go etc. → wanted/liked/knew/went etc.

Compare direct speech and reported speech:

You met Anna. Here are some of

the things she said in direct speech:

Later you tell somebody what Anna said. You use reported speech:

My parents are fine.

I'm going to learn to drive.

I want to buy a car. John has a new job. I can't come to the party on Friday.

I don't have much free time. I'm going away for a few days. I'll phone you when I get back.



ANNA

Anna said that her parents were fine. She said that she was going to learn to

She said that she wanted to buy a car. She said that John had a new job.

She said that she couldn't come to the party on Friday.

She said she didn't have much free time.

She said that she was going away for a few days and would phone me when

she got back.

The past simple (did/saw/knew etc.) can usually stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the past perfect (had done / had seen / had known etc.):

Paul said 'I woke up feeling ill, so I didn't go to work.'

Paul said (that) he woke up feeling ill, so he didn't go to work. Paul said (that) he had woken up feeling ill, so he hadn't gone to work.