

The Impersonal Passive

The impersonal passive is used to report what people say, think, or believe in a formal way. It often uses the structure

It + passive verb + that-clause.

Rewrite the following sentences using the impersonal passive and the verbs provided in brackets.

1. People believe that the car changed the world. (**claim**)
2. In the opinion of many, computer games teach young people to be violent. (**think**)
3. Researchers believe there are about 1 billion bikes in the world. (**estimate**)
4. Scientists have been certain that the world is round for over 2,000 years. (**know**)
5. Doctors believed that smallpox could not be cured until the 19th century. (**think**)
6. People say that eating apples is good for your teeth. (**say**)
7. Experts believe that the economy will grow next year. (**believe**)
8. Many people think that the thief escaped through the window. (**thought**)
9. Historians consider that the fire started in the kitchen. (**consider**)
10. Some report that the president will resign tomorrow. (**report**)
11. Many understand that the rules are going to change. (**understand**)
12. Most people feel that the new law is unfair. (**feel**)
13. They have suggested that the meeting be postponed. (**suggest**)
14. People once thought that the sun moved around the earth. (**thought**)
15. Local residents claim that the house is haunted. (**claim**)
16. Everyone knows that exercise reduces stress. (**know**)
17. Experts estimate that the painting is worth millions. (**estimate**)
18. People expect that the train will be late due to the snow. (**expect**)
19. Witnesses alleged that the driver was speeding. (**allege**)
20. Scientists have proved that the climate is changing. (**prove**)

Answer Key (For Reference)

1. **It is claimed that** the car changed the world.
2. **It is thought that** computer games teach young people to be violent.
3. **It is estimated that** there are about 1 billion bikes in the world.
4. **It has been known that** the world is round for over 2,000 years.
5. **It was thought that** smallpox could not be cured until the 19th century.
6. **It is said that** eating apples is good for your teeth.
7. **It is believed that** the economy will grow next year.
8. **It is thought that** the thief escaped through the window.
9. **It is considered that** the fire started in the kitchen.
10. **It is reported that** the president will resign tomorrow.
11. **It is understood that** the rules are going to change.
12. **It is felt that** the new law is unfair.
13. **It has been suggested that** the meeting be postponed.
14. **It was once thought that** the sun moved around the earth.
15. **It is claimed that** the house is haunted.
16. **It is known that** exercise reduces stress.
17. **It is estimated that** the painting is worth millions.
18. **It is expected that** the train will be late.
19. **It was alleged that** the driver was speeding.
20. **It has been proven that** the climate is changing.