

UNIT 45

It is said that ... / He is said to ... etc. and supposed to

a) Study this example situation:



This is Henry. He is very old but nobody knows exactly how old he is. But:

It is said that **he** is 108 years old.

He is said to be 108 years old.

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

You can also use these structures with:

thought believed reported understood
known expected alleged considered

It is said that Henry eats ten eggs a day.

or Henry is said to eat ten eggs a day.

It is believed that the wanted man is living in New York.

or The wanted man is believed to be living in New York.

It is expected that the strike will begin tomorrow.

or The strike is expected to begin tomorrow.

It is alleged that he stole £60.

or He is alleged to have stolen £60.

It was alleged that he stole £60.

or He was alleged to have stolen £60.

These structures are often used in news reports:

It is reported that two people were killed in the explosion.

or Two people are reported to have been killed in the explosion.

b) **Supposed to**

Sometimes (be) **supposed to** means 'said to':

- Let's go and see that film. It's **supposed to** be very good. (= It is said to be very good; people say that it's very good.)
- He is **supposed to** have stolen £60. (= He is said to have stolen £60.)

But sometimes **supposed to** has a different meaning. You can use **supposed to** to say what is planned or arranged (and this is often different from what really happens):

- I'd better hurry. It's nearly 8 o'clock. I'm **supposed to** be meeting Tom at 8.15. (= I arranged to meet Tom; I said I would meet Tom.)
- The train was **supposed to** arrive at 11.30 but it was 40 minutes late. (= The train should have arrived at 11.30 according to the timetable.)
- You were **supposed to** clean the windows. Why didn't you do it?

We use **not supposed to** to say what is not allowed or not advisable:

- You're **not supposed to** park here. (= You aren't allowed to park here.)
- Mr Collins is much better after his illness but he's still **not supposed to** do any heavy work.

UNIT 45 Exercises

45.1 In this exercise you have to read a sentence and then write another sentence with the same meaning.

Example: It is believed that the wanted man is living in New York.

The wanted man is believed to be living in New York.

1 It is said that many people are homeless after the floods.

Many people are said

2 It is known that the Prime Minister is in favour of the new law.

The Prime Minister

3 It is expected that the government will lose the election.

The government

4 It is thought that the prisoner escaped by climbing over the wall.

The prisoner

5 It is believed that the thieves got in through the kitchen window.

The thieves

6 It is alleged that he drove through the town at 90 miles an hour.

He

7 It is reported that two people were seriously injured in the accident.

Two people

8 It is said that three men were arrested after the explosion.

Three men

45.2 There are a lot of stories about Arthur but nobody knows whether they are true. Make sentences with **supposed to**.

Example: People say that Arthur eats spiders.

Arthur is supposed to eat spiders.

1 People say that Arthur is very rich. Arthur

2 People say that he has 22 children. He

3 People say that he sleeps on a bed of nails. He

4 People say that he won a lot of money gambling. He

5 People say that he writes poetry. He

45.3 Now you have to use **supposed to** with its other meaning. In each example what happens is not what is supposed to happen. Use **supposed to** or **not supposed to** with one of these verbs: ~~clean~~ come be ~~smoke~~ phone study take

Examples: Tom, you're smoking! But you know you are not supposed to smoke in this room.

Why are the windows still dirty? You were supposed to clean them.

1 What are the children doing at home? They at school.

2 He in the evenings but he always goes out.

3 Don't put sugar in your tea. You know you sugar.

4 Oh dear! I Ann but I completely forgot.

5 They arrived very early – at 2.00. They until 3.30.