

IT IS (SAID*) THAT

PASSIVE STRUCTURE

* KNOWN, TOLD, UNDERSTOOD, REPORTED, EXPECTED, THOUGHT

This formal structure is frequently used **when reporting news** to make the news sound more impersonal; to take a distance.

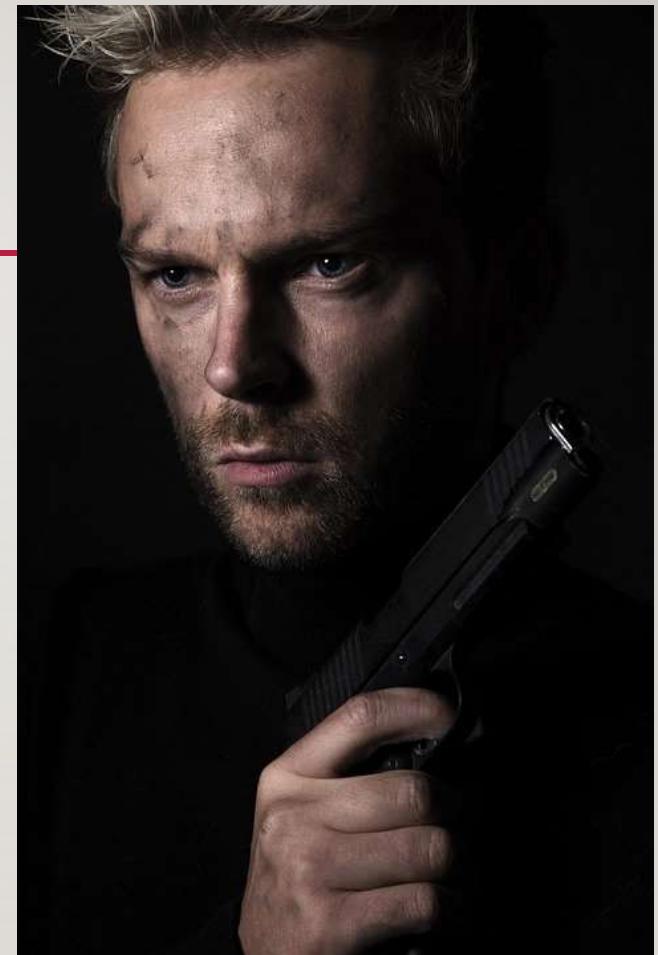
Verbs that follow this
structure are:

**know, tell, understand,
report, expect, say, and
think**

IT IS (BELIEVED) THAT + CLAUSE

**IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE MAN
HIDING IN THAT BUILDING HAS GOT A GUN.**

OR IT IS
**KNOWN, TOLD, UNDERSTOOD,
REPORTED, EXPECTED, THOUGHT
THAT...**

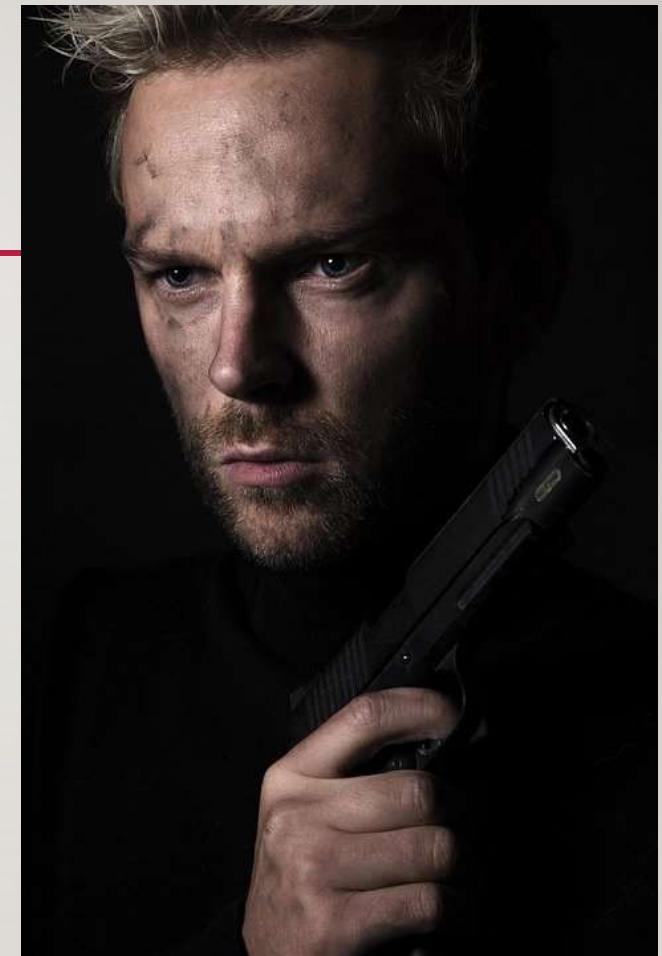


**There are two more structures in
which the subject is not it.**

HE IS (BELIEVED) TO + INFINITIVE

HE IS BELIEVED TO **BE** A SPY .

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
Subject + is believed... + to + infinitive



... or also...

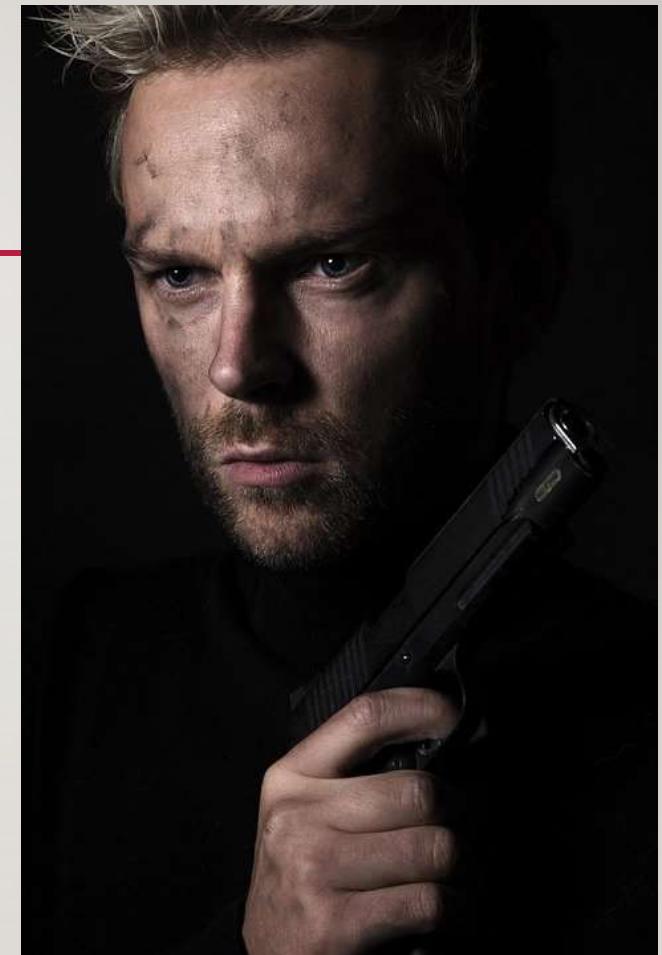
**Subject +
is believed...+
to +
perfect infinitive**

HE IS (BELIEVED) TO + PERFECT INFINITIVE

HE IS BELIEVED TO **HAVE REVEALED**

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
Subject + is believed... + to + perfect infinitive (past action)

CRUCIAL INFORMATION TO THE ENEMY.



READ THE NEWS STORY

Hypnotic bank robber

Bank clerks in Moldova **have been told by the police** not to make eye contact with customers after a series of robberies.

The robber is believed to be a trained hypnotist from Russia.

He is said to put cashiers into a trance before making them hand over tens of thousands of dollars.

It is thought that the criminal begins talking to bank tellers and gradually hypnotizes them. After getting them to give him money, he then brings them back out of the trance and leaves them with no memory of handing over the cash.

It is believed that the man has robbed at least three banks in the last month.

Source: New English File Upper Intermediate



IDENTIFY WHAT IS MISSING IN THE GAPS.

THEN, GO BACK AND CHECK WITH THE FULL TEXT.

Hypnotic bank robber

Bank clerks in Moldova _____ not to make eye contact with customers after a series of robberies. _____ a trained hypnotist from Russia.

_____ before making them hand over tens of thousands of dollars.

_____ begins talking to bank tellers and gradually hypnotizes them. After getting them to give him money, he then brings them back out of the trance and leaves them with no memory of handing over the cash.

_____ has robbed at least three banks in the last month.

Source: New English File Upper Intermediate



It is believed that the man

It is thought that the criminal

He is said to put cashiers into a trance

have been told by the police

The robber is believed to be