

**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 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 use 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**.

It is reported that two people were    or    Two people are reported to have