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Basics. Reporting with Passives

Hard | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Clause | Future tense | Indirect speech | Infinitive | Negation | Pronoun | Subject | Verb | Passive voice | Perfect tense | Progressive tense

1. Help the local news anchor complete this bizarre report about a neighborhood menace by choosing the correct phrase for each gap.

The infamous stray cat is known _____ over fifty silver teaspoons from local residents over the last year. Currently, the furry thief is believed _____ somewhere in the mayor's attic. According to the police chief, _____ reported that the feline only targets high-quality silverware.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) to steal
B) to have stolen
C) to be stolen

Blank 2

A) to have hidden
B) to be hiding
C) to hide

Blank 3

A) it is
B) he is
C) there is

2. Help the President's speechwriter draft an announcement about the approaching alien fleet.

Choose ALL the options that correctly use passive reporting structures to describe a future expectation.

Select all that apply.

A) The aliens are expected to arrive on Earth next Tuesday.
B) It is expected that the aliens will arrive on Earth next Tuesday.
C) The aliens are expected that they will arrive on Earth next Tuesday.
D) It is expected the aliens to arrive on Earth next Tuesday.

3. Complete the UFO enthusiast's wild blog post about last night's mysterious events by choosing the best grammatical fit for each gap.

_____ that the local mayor secretly met the extraterrestrials to discuss a peace treaty. Furthermore, the glowing spaceship _____ by terrified farmers _____ into thin air just before dawn.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) It is rumored
B) He is rumored
C) There is rumored

Blank 2

A) was reporting
B) has reported
C) was reported

Blank 3

A) that it vanished
B) vanishing
C) to have vanished

4. Help the science fiction writer complete this dramatic sentence for their latest novel.

By the time he was finally caught by the authorities, the eccentric billionaire was known _____ on a functional time machine for over a decade.

Select one.

A) that he was working
B) to be working
C) to have been working
D) having worked

5. Complete the tour guide's script about the eccentric billionaire, Arthur Pendelton.

Select ALL the grammatically correct sentences that apply.

Select all that apply.

A) Arthur was rumored to be living in a secret volcano lair.
B) It was rumored that Arthur was living in a secret volcano lair.
C) Arthur was rumored living in a secret volcano lair.
D) It was rumored Arthur to be living in a secret volcano lair.

6. Complete the sci-fi movie reviewer's plot summary by choosing the correct grammatical structure for each gap.

In the year 3022, _____ said that the MasterChef 3000 suddenly gained sentience. Shortly after the malfunction, the robot chef is alleged _____ the planetary governor's soup with hot sauce. Now, heavily armed and barricaded in the kitchen, the mechanical menace is reported _____ three tons of premium garlic before it will surrender.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) he is
B) it is
C) there is

Blank 2

A) to poison
B) to have poisoned
C) to be poisoned

Blank 3

A) to demand
B) to have demanded
C) to be demanding

7. Help the local news anchor read the teleprompter correctly by selecting ALL the grammatically valid ways to report on "The Phantom" jewel thief.

Select all the sentences that correctly apply.

Select all that apply.

A) It is reported that the Phantom stole the royal diamonds last night.
B) The Phantom is reported to have stolen the royal diamonds last night.
C) The Phantom is reported to steal the royal diamonds last night.
D) It is reported the Phantom to have stolen the royal diamonds last night.

8. Help the quirky archaeologist finalize his lecture notes on the newly discovered "Tomb of the Quack" by selecting the correct active or passive infinitives.

The ancient king is widely understood _____ with his favorite collection of rubber ducks. The royal architects are thought _____ the tomb's entrance to keep intruders out. However, the magical traps are now known _____ by a stray cat in 1922.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) to bury
B) to have buried
C) to have been buried

Blank 2

- **A)** to be cursed
- **B)** to have been cursed
- **C)** to have cursed

Blank 3

- **A)** to trigger
- **B)** to have triggered
- **C)** to have been triggered

9. Complete the museum guide's fascinating tale about a historical feline.

Sir Paws-a-Lot, an 18th-century aristocat, is widely believed _____ the concept of the 3 PM afternoon nap.

Select one.

- **A)** to invent
- **B)** to have invented
- **C)** that he invented
- **D)** having invented

10. Piece together the archaeologist's dramatic (and highly questionable) findings by choosing the correct reporting verb for each gap.

Ancient King Bob is rumored _____ a domesticated T-Rex into battle. Furthermore, the king's legendary titanium crown is thought _____ in the heart of an active volcano. Despite the critics, the excavation site is expected _____ even more ridiculous artifacts when digging resumes tomorrow.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** to ride
- **B)** to have ridden
- **C)** to be ridden

Blank 2

- **A)** to have forged
- **B)** to have been forged
- **C)** to be forging

Blank 3

- **A)** to have yielded
- **B)** to be yielded
- **C)** to yield

11. Choose the correct phrase to complete the food critic's scathing restaurant review.

The notorious head chef of *The Greasy Spoon* is rumored _____ a single fresh vegetable in his entire twenty-year career.

Select one.

- **A)** not to have cooked
- **B)** to not cook
- **C)** that he hasn't cooked
- **D)** not cooking

12. Help the detective complete her official case file on the infamous Diamond Heist by selecting the correct reporting structures.

The missing diamond _____ to _____ millions before it was cut into smaller pieces by the thieves. Today, the mastermind behind the heist _____ to _____ on a sunny tropical island right now, comfortably evading the law.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** estimates
- **B)** is estimating
- **C)** is estimated

Blank 2

- **A)** be worth
- **B)** have been worth
- **C)** being worth

Blank 3

- **A)** reports
- **B)** has reported
- **C)** is reported

Blank 4

- **A)** live
- **B)** be living
- **C)** have lived