Impersonal passive

The impersonal passive is used with reporting verbs such as believe, claim, consider, estimate, expect, know, report, say, think, understand, etc. It reports what an unspecified group of people say or believe.

The impersonal passive has two forms:

it + be + past participle + (that) + subject + verb:
someone/something + be + past participle + infinitive:

1. **People believe the company stole over a million pounds**

   It is believed that the company stole over a million pounds

   The company is believed to have stolen over a million pounds

   There is a belief that the company stole over a million pounds

   One belief is that the company stole over a million pounds

2. **We expect the train strike will begin tomorrow**

   It is expected that the train strike will begin tomorrow

The Train Strike is expected to begin tomorrow

There is an expectation that the train strike will begin tomorrow

One expectation is that the train strike will begin tomorrow

3. People believe that English is the most widely spoken language

- It is believed that English is the most widely spoken language.
- English is believed to be the most widely spoken language.

4. Police have reported that it was Peter who caused the accident.

- It has been reported that it was Peter who caused the accident.
- Peter has been reported to have caused the accident.