

7.4

USE OF ENGLISH

Passive reporting structures

I can use various passive reporting structures.

1 SPEAKING Look at the photos and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you watch any of these types of video blogs? Why?/Why not? What is discussed or presented in them?
- 2 Do you know of any other types of video blogs? What do they talk about or present?



2 3.7 Listen to a news programme about video blogging and answer the questions in your notebook.

- 1 What did people once think was impossible?
- 2 What type of videos attract the most viewers?
- 3 What other vlog types are mentioned in the programme?
- 4 What are the three ways of making money by vlogging?
- 5 Why do established companies post video blogs?
- 6 What two factors are the key to success as a video blogger?

3 3.7 Listen again. In your notebook, write which sentence in each pair you hear in the recording.

- 1 a It is considered that music videos **are generating** the biggest audiences.
b Music videos are considered **to be generating** the biggest audiences.
- 2 a They report that the number of vloggers **has been growing** rapidly.
b The number of vloggers is reported **to have been growing** rapidly.
- 3 a Some vloggers are widely known **to have made** millions of dollars.
b It is widely known that some vloggers **have made** millions of dollars.
- 4 a Some people reckon that vlogging **is** the new form of mass advertising.
b Vlogging is reckoned **to be** the new form of mass advertising.

4 Look at the pairs of sentences in Exercise 3 and match them to the points below.

- an action in progress
- a single action or state
- an action completed at an unstated time
- an action in progress up to the present

5 Read the LANGUAGE FOCUS. Match the types of infinitives with four of the sentences in Exercise 3.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Passive reporting structures

You form the passive with reporting verbs such as *assume, believe, consider, feel, know, report, say, think* and *understand* in two ways:

Active: People **believe** he is a new superstar.

Passive 1: It + passive + that-clause

It is believed that he is a new superstar.

Passive 2: subject + passive + to + infinitive

He is believed to be a new superstar.

Depending on when an action occurred you report it using different **infinitives**:

- **simple** (to + infinitive) – a single action or state.
- **continuous** (to be + -ing) – an action in progress.
- **perfect** (to have + past participle) – an action completed at an unstated time.
- **perfect continuous** (to have + been + -ing) – an action in progress up to the present.

6 In your notebook, write the appropriate infinitive of the verb in brackets for each gap.

- 1 Spending too much time watching a screen is generally thought to be (be) bad for your health.
- 2 Facebook is believed ? (pass) its peak and teens are turning to other social media.
- 3 More and more YouTube stars are said ? (make) millions with their channels.
- 4 Several vloggers are estimated ? (earn) millions from sponsorship and product deals.
- 5 YouTube is reported ? (have) more than two billion users.
- 6 The number of people watching her channel was reported ? (rise) for years.

7 In your notebook, write sentences from the prompts using passive reporting structures.

- 1 last year / number of viewers / say / decrease / by ten percent
Last year, the number of viewers is said to have decreased by ten percent.
- 2 the website / report / expand / exponentially / two years ago
- 3 it / be / understand / the station / grow / quickly / since its launch
- 4 they / presume / taken / three million dollars / in 2019
- 5 the show / widely / acknowledge / be / funniest / YouTube comedy

8 SPEAKING Look again at sentences 1 and 2 in Exercise 6. Do you agree with them? Why?/Why not?

Use of English pages 133–134