

For centuries, Christopher Columbus was believed to have been the first European to set foot in America. However, nowadays, the Vikings are known to have landed on the continent 500 years before him. The story begins in the 10<sup>th</sup> century with Erik the Red. After murdering two men, Erik avoided being arrested by sailing west from what is now Iceland. It is said that he eventually settled in Greenland and had a son called Leif. On one of his voyages, Leif discovered a new area of land with plenty of fresh water and food. Evidence of the Vikings and their houses continues to be found in this region of Canada today.

## Presentation

### Passive infinitive and passive -ing form

You form the passive infinitive with *to be* + past participle:

*Evidence continues to be found in the region today.*

You can use the passive infinitive with verbs that are followed by the *to* infinitive, e.g. *agree*, *demand*, *want* (see also Unit 61):

*The Prime Minister agreed to be interviewed.*

*The shopkeeper demanded to be paid.*

You form the passive -ing form with *being* + past participle:

*Erik avoided being arrested for murder.*

The passive -ing can be used with verbs that are followed by verb + -ing (e.g. *enjoy*, *hate*) or after a preposition (*bored with*, *learn by*):

*The children enjoy being taken to the zoo.*

*I'm bored with being taught history.*

See also Units 62 and 63.

### Passive reporting structures (it is said ...)

Use passive reporting structures with reporting verbs such as *said*, *thought*, *believed*, *claimed*, *reported*, *suggested*.

See also Unit 74.

*It is said that he lived in Greenland.*

*Christopher Columbus was believed to be the first European to set foot in America.*

*Vikings are known to have landed on the continent.*

Passive reporting structures are formed like this:

- *It + be + past participle of reporting verb + (that) clause: It is known that he lived in Iceland.*
- *It/He/She/They + be + past participle of reporting verb + to infinitive: She is said to be unhappy here.*
- *It/He/She/They + be + past participle of reporting verb + to + have + past participle: They are believed to have lived on the island.*

The speaker in passive reporting structures is often unknown or unimportant:

*It has been reported that there is a delay.*

*He is believed to have stolen over a million pounds.*

Passive reporting structures are also used when someone wishes to remain anonymous:

A: *It has been reported that you were not at your desk.*

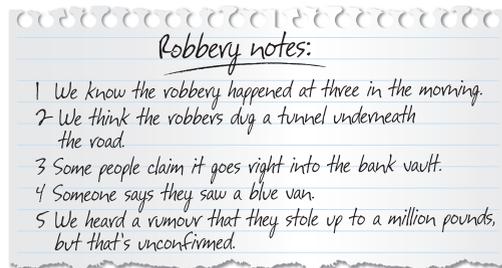
B: *That isn't true! Who told you that?*

**1 Underline the correct option. In two sentences, both answers are possible.**

- All the students hope to be put / being put into Mr Brown's class.
- He can't stand to be proved / being proved wrong in an argument.
- Are you prepared to be asked / being asked some difficult questions?
- Anyone who is late for the bus risks to be left / being left behind!
- Your aunt appeared to be shocked / being shocked by the film. What were you watching?
- We knew he was missing school because he kept to be seen / being seen around town during the day.
- I'm worried about not to be chosen / not being chosen for the team.
- No one likes to be delayed / being delaying at airports.
- The winning team stopped in their home town to be cheered / being cheered by their fans after they won the cup.

**2 Match 1-6 with A-F.**

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|---|--|
| 1 In the past, it was believed that .....   | A review their education policy.                 |
| 2 It is commonly known that .....           | B most students are in debt.                     |
| 3 It has been claimed that there are .....  | C the world was flat.                            |
| 4 A serious car crash is reported .....     | D to have happened on the motorway this morning. |
| 5 Native American Indians are thought ..... | E other life forms in the universe.              |
| 6 The government has agreed to .....        | F to have crossed over originally from Asia.     |

**3  Rewrite the reporter's sentences starting with the words in 1-5. Then listen and check.**

- It is known that the robbery happened at three in the morning .....
- It is .....
- It is .....
- A blue van is said to have .....
- The robbers are .....

**4 Complete the text with the words in brackets, using reporting passive structures.**

When Columbus proposed a plan to reach the East by sailing west, <sup>1</sup> ..... (it / criticise) by many people including his own King of Portugal. <sup>2</sup> ..... (it / claim) that Columbus had underestimated the actual circumference of the Earth. Eventually, Columbus is <sup>3</sup> ..... (know / convince) the King and Queen of Spain who <sup>4</sup> ..... (expect / reward) him with new lands. After some weeks at sea, his crew were growing angry and Columbus only <sup>5</sup> ..... (avoid / kill) by the desperate men when an island was finally sighted. The island <sup>6</sup> ..... (believe / be) part of what is now the Bahamas.