

Consolidation

a Rewrite the sentences using *It seems / appears + that + clause*.

1 The government appears to be planning to raise taxes.

It appears that the government is planning to raise taxes.

2 Men seem to be more at risk from this disease than women.

3 She appears to have changed her mind since I last spoke to her.

4 You seem to be unable to deal with this problem effectively.

5 The weather seems to be about to improve.

6 The robbers appear to have been wearing face masks.

b Rewrite the sentences using *subject + passive verb + to + infinitive*.

1 It is thought that the finance minister is about to resign from his post.

The finance minister is thought to be about to resign from his post.

2 It is expected that a spokesman will make an announcement later today.

3 It is believed that more than half of the population suffer from headaches.

4 It is said that St Petersburg is one of the most majestic cities in the world.

5 It is thought that at least seventy people have been injured as a result of the explosion.

6 It is expected that the economy will grow over the next six months.

c Read the news report and underline all the distancing expressions.

Concern is growing about a thirty-year-old man who has been missing from his Yorkshire home for more than a week. It seems that Dan Glayver was last seen when he left his office at around six p.m. last Thursday. According to his partner, he did not return home that evening. Mr Glayver's credit cards and mobile phone do not appear to have been used since

Thursday and his sudden disappearance is apparently completely out of character. Furthermore, there are said to be several inconsistencies in his partner's version of events, and the police are continuing to question her. It has been suggested by neighbours that the couple's relationship may have broken down in recent months.

Activation

● You are a TV newsreader. Use the following pieces of gossip to prepare an official news report about a famous actress. Be careful to distance yourself from the people's claims using a range of structures from a–c above.

Blanche doesn't have any real friends, only people who want to be famous like her.

Her husband Jet left her last week, and she was seen dancing in a club last night with another man.

Jet's going to file for divorce and Blanche won't have anything left after she's paid the lawyers.

She's close to a nervous breakdown because the paparazzi follow her everywhere.

The box office takings of her new film were very poor and her career is in ruins.

Actress Blanche Devoy was said to be close to a nervous breakdown last night.
It has been suggested that...