

Said to be

There is a small group of verbs often used in a particular way as shown below:

"People think he was involved in the murder of a banker." is better as:
"He is thought to have been involved in the murder of a banker."

"People believe that the seventh child of a seventh child has special powers ."

... is better as: **"The seventh child of a seventh child is believed to have special powers."**

The verbs used like this are: **to think, to believe, to say, to know, to report, to expect** etc e.g.

- *"Whales are known to be able to communicate over long distances under water."*
- *"Da Vinci is known to have made many drawings which have been lost."*

Notice the use of different tenses:

A) "The escaped prisoner is believed to be in London." (People think he's still there.)

B) "The escaped prisoner is believed to have been in London." (They think he's probably left.)

Now transform these sentences appropriately:

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| 1 | Some people think that Shakespeare's works were actually written by someone else. |
| 2 | Most people believe that horseshoes bring good luck. |
| 3 | Psychologists know that people behave unpredictably when placed under great stress. |
| 4 | It is believed that he lived in that house for a while. |
| 5 | It is expected that smallpox will have been eradicated within 20 years. |
| 6 | It is believed that the President is seriously ill. |
| 7 | It is generally accepted that obesity is a leading factor in poor health. |
| 8 | Everyone expects the interest rate to be raised. |
| 9 | People expect that inflation will increase. |
| 10 | People thought at one time that Marlon Brando was planning a return to the screen. |
| 11 | People say that his heavy drinking was the main reason for his failure. |
| 12 | The last report said that the astronauts were orbiting the moon. |
| 13 | It is said that aboriginals can track any animal. |
| 14 | People know that politicians never answer a question directly. |
| 15 | It is said that aboriginals can track any animal. |
| 16 | It is thought that the police are looking for a man with one eye. |
| 17 | It is known that Russian scientists have carried out similar experiments. |
| 18 | It is reported that a cure for ebola has been found. |
| 19 | Everyone knows that he has stolen government money. |
| 20 | There is a rumour going around that Elvis has been seen in Dallas. |
| 21 | It is feared that the terrorists have escaped. |
| 22 | People say that love is blind. |
| 23 | It is believed that the acceleration in the melting of the ice-caps is increasing. |
| 24 | Everyone knows that a good diet and exercise are essential for good health. |
| 25 | They think the missing spacecraft has crashed onto the surface of Mars. |
| 26 | It is believed that the black hole at the centre of the galaxy is expanding. |