

# There is, There are, There was, There were

**There is** – used with **countable** nouns in singular or **uncountable** nouns in the **present**.  
**There is** some coffee in the fridge.  
**There is** a big sunflower in the garden.

**There are** – used with **countable** nouns in the plural in the present.  
**There are** three Japanese girls in my classroom.  
**There are** many flowers in the garden.

**There was** – used in the same way as “there is” in the past.  
**There was** a wreck on the interstate yesterday.  
**There was** some sugar here one hour ago. Where is it?

**There were** – used in the same way as “there are” in the past.  
**There were** several mistakes in my composition. That's why my grade was so poor, Mom.

1

Complete with “there is”, “there are”:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a hole in Susan's coat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ some keys on the table.  
Are they yours?
- Yvonne is here to talk to you. \_\_\_\_\_ some things she wants to ask you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ some milk in the fridge if you want to drink something, Carl.
- \_\_\_\_\_ two Australian kids living in the neighborhood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ some ants in the garden, we need to have it sprayed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a bug on your shirt.



2 Complete with “there was”, “there were”:

- I'm late because \_\_\_\_\_ an accident on the interstate and the traffic was stuck.
- I asked you to lend me your pen because I didn't notice \_\_\_\_\_ some blue pens on the table.
- Sam is worried about the storm because \_\_\_\_\_ a tornado last year when his house was destroyed.
- We didn't have class today because of the cold weather. \_\_\_\_\_ only three students in class.
- The party was great! \_\_\_\_\_ live music and some great singers.
- Fred got such a poor grade because \_\_\_\_\_ too many mistakes in his composition.

Complete with the affirmative, interrogative or negative form of “there was”, “there were”:

- The show was cancelled because \_\_\_\_\_ any hotel rooms available for the band.
- \_\_\_\_\_ diet drinks at the prom last Saturday?
- \_\_\_\_\_ a reason for your silly decision? Nobody understood it.
- Jeff is complaining because \_\_\_\_\_ any seats available.
- Cindy changed her mind about going to Yosemite last weekend because \_\_\_\_\_ only two places available and she wanted to take her cousins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ any calls for me while I was away, Ms Anderson?



3 Mark the correct option:

- \_\_\_\_\_ some doughnuts for you.
  - there was
  - there are
- \_\_\_\_\_ a new disco downtown. What do you think of going there next Saturday?
  - there weren't
  - there is
- The plant died because \_\_\_\_\_ any water in the vase. Did you forget to water it?
  - was there
  - there wasn't
- The police had to release the convict because \_\_\_\_\_ any evidences proving he was the murderer.
  - there were
  - there weren't
- We need to go to the supermarket because \_\_\_\_\_ any meat left.
  - there were
  - there isn't
- I think I'll flunk because the test is tomorrow and \_\_\_\_\_ enough time to study anymore.
  - there isn't
  - there are
- \_\_\_\_\_ any toilet paper left?
  - is there
  - there is
- I can't forgive you, Tom. \_\_\_\_\_ no reason to justify what you did.
  - there weren't
  - there is

4

Complete with “there is”, “there are”, “there was”, “there were”, in the affirmative, negative and interrogative form:

- I don't want to frighten you, but \_\_\_\_\_ any tickets available. The show is sold out.
- Don't believe in what Ernest told you. \_\_\_\_\_ any haunted houses in this neighborhood.
- Please, sir. \_\_\_\_\_ a pharmacy near here?
- \_\_\_\_\_ many people at the stadium for the game yesterday?
- \_\_\_\_\_ tons of people for the play. The theater was crowded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a person here to talk to you, Paul. Can you come here now?
- Alicia is upset because \_\_\_\_\_ any money left for the vacation trip she planned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a man here to talk to you. I think he was tired of waiting and left.



- there was
- there aren't
- Organizing my wardrobe yesterday was a hard task because \_\_\_\_\_ many clothes I wanted to keep but they didn't fit me anymore.
  - there are
  - there were
- \_\_\_\_\_ nothing in this box.
  - there is
  - there isn't

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## Teacher's keys

### Exercise (1)

**Complete with “there is”, “there are”:**

1. **There is** a hole in Susan's coat.
2. **There are** some keys on the table. Are they yours?
3. Yvonne is here to talk to you. **There are** some things she wants to ask you.
4. **There is** some milk in the fridge if you want to drink something, Carl.
5. **There are** two Australian kids living in the neighborhood.
6. **There are** some ants in the garden, we need to have it sprayed.
7. **There is** a bug on your shirt.

## Exercise (2)

**Complete with “there was”, “there were”:**

1. I'm late because **there was** an accident on the interstate and the traffic was stuck.
2. I asked you to lend me your pen because I didn't notice **there were** some blue pens on the table.
3. Sam is worried about the storm because **there was** a tornado last year when his house was destroyed.
4. We didn't have class today because of the cold weather. **There were** only three students in class.
5. The party was great! **There was** live music and some great singers.
6. Fred got such a poor grade because **there were** too many mistakes in his composition.

### Exercise (3)

**Complete with the affirmative, interrogative or negative form of "there was", "there were":**

1. The show was cancelled because **there weren't** any hotel rooms available for the band.
2. **Were there** diet drinks at the last Saturday?
3. **Was there** a reason for your silly decision? Nobody understood it.
4. Jeff is complaining because **there weren't** any seats available.
5. Cindy changed her mind about going to Yosemite last weekend because **there were** only two places available and she wanted to take her cousins.
6. **Were there** any calls for me while I was away, Ms Anderson?

### Exercise (4)

Complete with "there is", "there are", "there was", "there were", in the affirmative, negative and interrogative form:

1. I don't want to frighten you, but **there aren't** any tickets available. The show is sold out.

2. Don't believe in what Ernest told you. **There aren't** any haunted houses in this neighborhood.

3. Please, sir. **Is there** a pharmacy near here?

4. **Were there** many people at the stadium for the game yesterday?

5. **There were** tons of people for the play. The theater was crowded.

6. **There is** a person here to talk to you, Paul. Can you come here now?

7. Alicia is upset because **there isn't** any money left for the vacation trip she planned.

8. **There was** a man here to talk to you. I think he was tired of waiting and left.

### Exercise (5)

**Mark the correct option:**