



Mastering 'There'

A Simple Guide to a Common Phrase

How to use 'there is', 'there are', 'there was', 'there were',
and 'there will be' correctly.



What is the job of 'there'?

The phrase “there” has one main job: **to introduce something new into a scene**. It tells us that something exists or is in- in a specific place.

To use 'there' correctly, you only need to answer two questions.



How many?

NUMBER

(Is it one thing or many?)



When?

TIME

(Is it happening now, before, or later?)

The First Dimension: NUMBER

Singular



Refers to **one** person or thing.

- a cat
- a car
- a party
- a problem

Plural



Refers to **more than one** person or thing.

- three apples
- many stars
- five people
- biscuits

The Second Dimension: TIME



Present

Happening **now**.



Past

Happened **before** now.



Future

Will happen **later**.

The 'There' Framework: Connecting Number and Time



Present



Past



Future



Singular

**There
is**

**There
was**

**There
will be**



Plural

**There
are**

**There
were**

**There
will be**

Notice: The future form "will be" is the same for both singular and plural!

Using 'There' in the **PRESENT**

There is

We use 'there is' with singulars to show something exists now.

"There is a cat on the mat."



There are

We use 'there are' with plurals to show things exist now.

"There are three apples in the basket."



More PRESENT Examples



“There is a car in the garage.”



“There are many stars in the sky.”

Using 'There' in the **PAST**

There was

We use 'there was' with singulars to show something existed before.

There was a party at my friend's house last night.



There were

We use 'there were' with plurals to show things existed before.

There were five people at the meeting.



More **PAST** Examples



“There was a problem with the computer yesterday.”



“There were biscuits on the plate.”

Using 'There' in the **FUTURE**

For the future, we use **'there will be'** for **both** singular and plural.



"There will be a test on Friday."



"There will be a concert in the park next week."

Check Your Understanding

Choose the correct form to complete each sentence.

_____ a beautiful painting on the wall. (is)

Last year, _____ many sunny days. (were)

_____ a new coffee shop here soon. (will be)

Yesterday, _____ a message for you. (was)

Your Master Key to Using 'There'



SINGULAR



PLURAL

Step 1: Ask "How many?"

→ One? (**is**, **was**,
will be)

→ Many? (**are**,
were, **will be**)



PRESENT



PAST



FUTURE

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
PRESENT	<u>There is</u>	<u>There are</u>
PAST	<u>There was</u>	<u>There were</u>
FUTURE	<u>There will be</u>	<u>There will be</u>

Step 2: Ask "When?"

→ Now? (**is** / **are**)

→ Before? (**was** /
were)

→ Later? (**will be**)

With this framework, you can confidently choose the right form every time.