There ... and it ...

A

Study this example:

> **There's** a new restaurant in Hill Street.

> Yes, I know. I've heard **it's** very good.

We use **there** ... when we talk about something for the first time, to say that it exists:
- **There's** a new restaurant in Hill Street. (*not* A new restaurant is in Hill Street)
- I'm sorry I'm late. **There was** a lot of traffic. (*not* It was a lot of traffic)
- Things are more expensive now. **There has been** a big rise in the cost of living.

It = a specific thing, place, fact, situation etc. (but see also section C):
- We went to the new restaurant. **It's** very good. (**It** = the restaurant)
- I wasn't expecting them to come. **It** was a complete surprise. (**It** = that they came)

Compare **there** and **it**:
- I don't like this town. **There's** nothing to do here. **It's** a boring place.

There also means 'to/at/in that place':
- When we got to the party, there were already a lot of people **there** (= at the party).

B

You can say **there will be / there must be / there might be / there used to be** etc. :
- Will you be busy tomorrow? **Will there be** much to do?
- '**Is there** a flight to Rome tonight?' '**There might be**. I'll check the website.'
- If people drove more carefully, **there wouldn't be** so many accidents.

Also **there must have been**, **there should have been** etc. :
- I could hear music coming from the house. **There must have been** somebody at home.

Compare **there** and **it**:
- They live on a busy road. **There must be** a lot of noise from the traffic.
- They live on a busy road. **It must be** very noisy.
- **There used to be** a cinema here, but it closed a few years ago.
- That building is now a supermarket. **It used to be** a cinema.

You can also say **there is sure / bound** (= sure) / **likely** to be ... . Compare **there** and **it**:
- **There's sure to be** a flight to Rome tonight. (*or* **There's bound to be** ...)
- There's a flight to Rome tonight, but **it's sure to be** full. (**it** = the flight)

C

We also use **it** in sentences like this:
- **It's** dangerous **to walk in the road**.

We do not usually say 'To walk in the road is dangerous'. Normally we begin with **It** ... .
Some more examples:
- **It** didn't take us long **to get** here.
- **It's** a shame (**that**) **you can't come to the party**.
- Let's go. **It's** not worth **waiting any longer**.

We also use **it** to talk about distance, time and weather:
- How far is **it** from here to the airport?
- What day is **it** today?
- **It's** a long time since we saw you last.
- **It** was windy yesterday. (*but* **There** was **a cold wind**.)

It's worth / it's no use / there's no point ➔ Unit 63   Sure to / bound to ... etc. ➔ Unit 65E
There is + -ing/-ed ➔ Unit 97