({ContractID}) - {Name}

{FolderName} {Stage}

Today: {TodaysDate}

Term: {Term\_Type} – from {Terms\_StartDate} to {Terms\_EndDate}

English clauses which are not imperatives must have a subject. Sometimes we need to use a ‘dummy’ or ‘empty’ or ‘artificial’ subject when there is no subject attached to the verb, and where the real subject is somewhere else in the clause. *It* and *there* are the two dummy subjects used in English:

***It****’s always interesting****to find out about your family history****.*

[real subject]***To find out about your family history****is always interesting.* (The real subject – the thing that is interesting – is ‘to find out about your family history’.)

***There****are****five Dutch people in our village****.* (The real subject is the Dutch people – they are in the village.)

## ***It* as a dummy subject**

We often use *it* as a dummy subject with adjectives and their complements:

***It****’s important to wear a helmet whenever you do any dangerous sport.*

[real subject]***Wearing a helmet when you do any dangerous sport****is important.*

Not: *~~Is important to wear a helmet~~* … (The real subject is ‘wearing a helmet when you do any dangerous sport’ – that is what is important.)

***It’s useful to write down your passport number somewhere, in case you lose it.***

**See also:**

* [*It*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/it)

## ***There* as a dummy subject**

*There* operates as a dummy subject in the construction *there is* or *there are*. *There is/are* indicates that something or someone exists or is in a particular place or situation:

***There****’s a woman waiting outside who wants to talk to you.* (The real subject is the woman – she is waiting outside.).

Not: ~~Is a woman waiting outside~~ … or ~~It’s a woman waiting outside~~…

***There****are two shops in the village.*

Not: ~~Are two shops~~ … or ~~They are two shops~~…