



There was / were ...

There have / has been ...

There will be ...

there was / there were (*past*)



There is a train every hour.

The time now is 11.15.

There was a train at 11 o'clock.

Compare:

there is/are (*present*)

- ☐ **There is** nothing on TV tonight.
- ☐ We are staying at a very big hotel.
There are 550 rooms.
- ☐ Is everything OK? **Are there** any problems?
- ☐ I'm hungry, but **there isn't** anything to eat.

there was/were (*past*)

- ☐ **There was** nothing on TV last night.
- ☐ We stayed at a very big hotel.
There were 550 rooms.
- ☐ Was everything OK yesterday? **Were there** any problems?
- ☐ I was hungry when I got home, but **there wasn't** anything to eat.

there has been / there have been (*present perfect*)



- ☐ Look! **There's been** an accident.
(**there's been** = there **has** been)
- ☐ This road is very dangerous. **There have been** many accidents.

Compare **there was** (*past*):

- ☐ **There was** an accident **last night**.
(*not* There has been an accident last night.)

For past simple and present perfect, see Unit 20.

there will be



- ☐ Do you think **there will be** a lot of people at the party on Saturday?
- ☐ The manager of the company is leaving, so **there will be** a new manager soon.
- ☐ I'm going away tomorrow. I'll do my packing today because **there won't be** time tomorrow.
(**there won't be** = there **will not** be)

Look at the two pictures. Now the room is empty, but what was in the room last week? Choose from the box and write sentences with **There was ...** or **There were ...** .

an armchair a carpet some flowers a sofa
 some books ~~a clock~~ three pictures a small table

last week



now



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | <u>There was a clock.</u> | on the wall near the window. |
| 2 | | on the floor. |
| 3 | | on the wall near the door. |
| 4 | | in the middle of the room. |
| 5 | | on the table. |
| 6 | | on the shelves. |
| 7 | | in the corner near the door. |
| 8 | | opposite the armchair. |

Write **there was** / **there wasn't** / **was there** or **there were** / **there weren't** / **were there**.

- 1 I was hungry, but there wasn't anything to eat.
- 2 Was everything OK yesterday? Were there any problems?
- 3 I opened the envelope, but it was empty. there was nothing in it.
- 4 'We stayed at a very nice hotel.' 'Really?' Was there a swimming pool?'
- 5 'Did you buy any bananas?' 'No, there weren't any in the shop.'
- 6 The wallet was empty. there was any money in it.
- 7 ' Were there many people at the meeting?' 'No, very few.'
- 8 We didn't visit the museum. there wasn't enough time.
- 9 I'm sorry I'm late. there was a lot of traffic.
- 10 Twenty years ago there weren't many tourists here. Now there are a lot.

Write **there + is / are / was / were / has been / have been / will be**.

- 1 There was a good film on TV last night.
- 2 24 hours in a day.
- 3 a party at the club last Friday, but I didn't go.
- 4 'Where can I get something to eat?' '..... a cafe at the end of the street.'
- 5 'Why are the police outside the bank?' '..... a robbery.'
- 6 When we arrived at the theatre, a long queue outside.
- 7 When you arrive tomorrow, somebody at the station to meet you.
- 8 Ten years ago 500 children at the school. Now
..... more than a thousand.
- 9 Last week I went back to the town where I was born. It's very different now.
..... a lot of changes.
- 10 I think everything will be OK. I don't think any problems.