

75 *there + be*



There was a terrible flood in the UK last summer. There was water everywhere.

1 Form

We can use *there + be* in many tenses and forms, eg:

	SINGULAR COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE	PLURAL COUNTABLE
present simple	<i>There's a flood.</i>	<i>There's water everywhere.</i>	<i>There are lots of storms.</i>
past simple	<i>There was a flood.</i>	<i>There was water everywhere</i>	<i>There were lots of storms.</i>

Look at those dark clouds. ***There's going to be*** a storm.

Have you heard the news? ***There's been*** an accident on the motorway.

I think ***there will be*** about fifty people at the party.

We also use the negative of *there + be*:

There isn't any food in the fridge.

There haven't been any good programmes on TV for a long time.

To form questions, we put *be* before *there*:

Is there anyone you know here? Yes, ***there is***. / No, ***there isn't***.



We don't use *there + be* in continuous tenses:

~~*X There's being a concert in the park this weekend.*~~

✓ There's a concert in the park this weekend.



We use *there + is* (a singular verb) with a list of singular nouns:

~~*X There are a film, a concert and a football match on TV tonight.*~~

✓ There's a film, a concert and a football match on TV tonight.



Pronunciation ► 1.28

2 Use

We use *there + be*

- to say where something is:

There's a bank in the High Street. There's some salt in that cupboard.

- to say when something happens:

There was a robbery in the town last night.

There'll be another concert in the village hall on Friday.

- to show something to someone:

Look! There's a bird in that tree.

- to say how many:

There are three museums in the city. There have been five really bad storms in the last week.



We need the word *there* in these sentences:

~~*X Is a strange cat in the garden. X It is a strange cat in the garden.*~~

✓ There's a strange cat in the garden.

~~*X Are three cash machines here. X They are three cash machines here.*~~

✓ There are three cash machines here.

there and it ► Unit 76.4