

44 Common expressions with *there* and *it*



1 Common words and expressions after *there* (+ *be*)

We use *there* to introduce a number of phrases connected with certainty and expectation, followed by *to be*:

*bound certain expected
likely supposed sure*

*If the government goes ahead there's sure to be an outcry from the miners.
Hang on, there was supposed to be a television in the room.*

There also introduces a number of negative phrases, followed by the infinitive with *to*:

*no alternative but
no choice but
no need no reason*

*There's no alternative but to call for a vote and face the consequences.
There wasn't any reason to doubt the evidence.*

Some negative phrases beginning with *there* are followed by an *-ing* form:

*no problem no difficulty
no trouble no hope of
no point in no question of
no chance of*

*There won't be any trouble getting back.
There's no point in arguing about it.
You haven't got your receipt so there's no question of getting a refund.*

We can use *no knowing* followed by *wh-* words or *if/whether*:

There's no knowing what she'll do now her husband's left her.

The tests were inconclusive so there's no knowing whether he'll survive the operation.

Some phrases are followed by a *that* clause:

no denying no/any doubt

*There's no denying that he's lost the company several contracts due to his incompetence.
There really isn't any doubt that she's guilty.*

2 Common expressions after *it*

We use *it + seems as if/though* to describe our impressions:

It seems as if we've known each other for years.

We use *it + looks as if/though* to talk about probability:

It looks as though I'm going to fail the test.

We use *it* to introduce a number of negative phrases followed by a *that* clause:

*no secret no surprise
no wonder no coincidence
no accident*

*It isn't any secret that she's leaving the city to start a new career.
Clara didn't do any revision – it's no surprise (that) she failed the exam.*

After *it's no use* and *it's no good* we use an *-ing* form:

It's no good phoning – the office is closed today.

I've made up my mind so it's no use nagging me about it.

We can use *it's no longer + adjective + to infinitive*:

In the UK it's no longer necessary to get a licence to keep a dog.

They've closed the caves permanently so it's no longer possible to see the prehistoric paintings.