

English Grammar



There is VS. There are

We use **There is** with singular nouns. (Just 1 thing)

“**There is** a new shopping mall on Main street.”
*Shopping mall is a singular noun. (1 mall)

We use **There are** with plural nouns (More than 1 thing)

“**There are** many stores in the mall.” *Stores is a plural noun. (many stores)

We also use **There is** with uncountable nouns

“**There is** some coffee left if you would like a cup.”
*Coffee is an uncountable noun.



There is VS There are - grammar

The verb “**To be**” has many uses. One use is to show that something exists or doesn’t exist. In this PDF we will learn the difference between **There is** and **There are**.

There is

We use **There is** with singular countable nouns.

“**There is** a long *line* in front of the movie theater near my house. It’s always busy on Saturday night.”

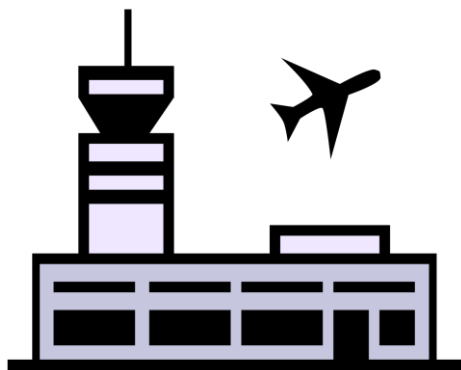
Line is a singular countable noun.

Singular examples:

“**There is** a big game on TV tonight.”

“**There is** a new cafe opening beside the train station next week.”

“**There is** a nice hotel near the airport.”



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There is also has a contracted form that is common in spoken English.

There's

“**There's** a big game on TV tonight.”

“**There's** a new Mexican restaurant opening near my office next month. I love Mexican food, I can't wait for it to open.”

The negative of **there is** is **there isn't**.

“**There isn't** a parking lot close to the theater so It's better take the bus.”

“I usually watch soccer on Friday but **there isn't** a game this week because of the national holiday.”

We also use There is... with uncountable nouns:

A: “The photocopier is out of paper.”

B: “**There is** some more paper in the file cabinet.”

A: I just checked.

There isn't any paper there.”

Paper is an uncountable noun.



There are

We use **There are** with singular countable nouns

“A new movie is opening tonight. I bet **there are** long *lines* in front of every theater in town.”
Lines is a plural countable noun.

Plural examples:

“**There are** 4 students waiting in your office.”

“**There are** many ways to solve this problem.”

“**There are** 8 cafes near my home station in Tokyo.”

The negative of **there are** is **there aren't**.

“**There aren't** many cafes near my office so, I always bring coffee from home.”



Asking questions with IS and ARE



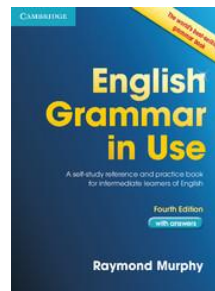
If we want to ask a question using this grammar we need to change the word order. IS or ARE will come first, THERE will come second.

Please look at the following examples.

“**Are there** many people in your office?”

“It’s 8:50, class starts at 8:30. **Is there** a reason why you’re late?”

“**Are there** some English textbooks that you like to use when you teach?”



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“**Is there** a cafeteria at your school?”

Remember to use **Is there...?** with uncountable nouns:

“**Is there** any coffee left?”

“**Is there** any more photocopy paper?”



There is a few or There are a few

You may sometimes hear native speakers say something like this:

A: “Are there many high schools in your hometown?”

B: “**There’s** a few.”

Is this grammar correct? I want to say NO but this grammar is quite common. I have heard it (*and said it*) many times in my life.

A few means 2 or 3, so the correct grammar would be like this:

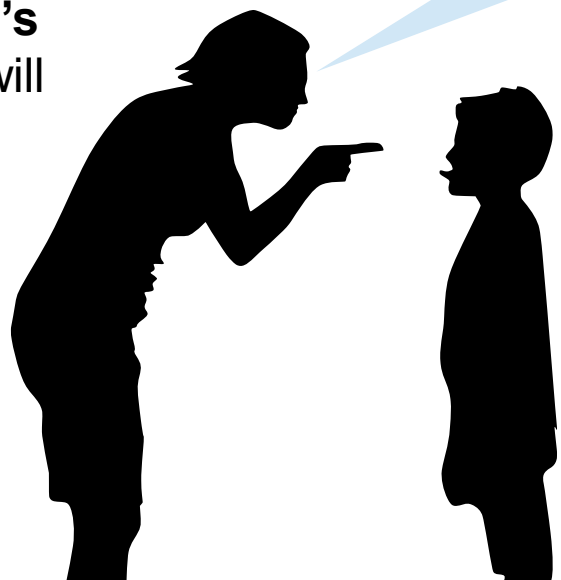
A: “Are there many high schools in your hometown?”

B: “**There are** a few.”

“There’s a few things we need to talk about...”

But... if you said “**There’s** a few (something)...” it will probably be okay.

*This is most natural in the contracted form **there's**.



There is more or There are more

This is another common question that I am asked by students. The same rule applies but there is a nuance with MORE.

When you're talking about a plural subject - **are** is necessary.

"4 of my friends are at the party now but **there are more** people coming."

When the subject is not mentioned - **there is/there's more** is natural.

Laurie: "After the movie I saw Johnny Depp leaving the same theater."

Beth: "You got to see Johnny Depp? You're so lucky!"

Laurie: "Wait Beth, **there's more**.

He took some time to talk with fans. I got to talk to him and get a picture with him! I was so happy!"

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This grammar is like saying “**There’s** *more stuff* I have to tell you.”

Stuff is a very informal noun (uncountable). Here is a meaning from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary:

used to refer in a general way to things that people do, say, think, etc.

stuff

This phrase is very often used in TV commercials. Someone in the commercial will tell you about all the great features of a product. When you think he/she is done they will add, “But wait, there’s more!”

Then they will tell you about some extra feature of offer that makes their product even better.

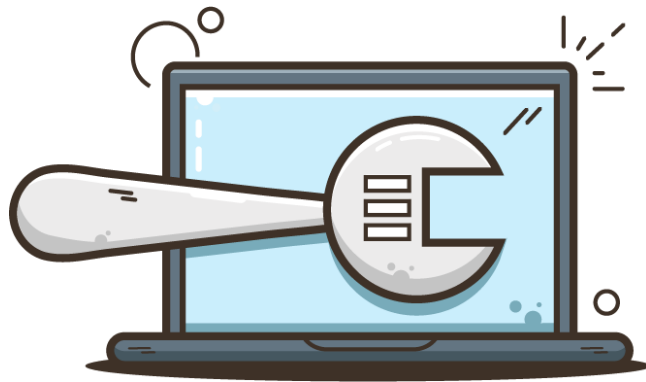


Thanks to the Grammarly blog for some inspiration:

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/there-is-there-are/>

Conclusion

I made this post and PDF to help English students learn and use this grammar. When I study my own second language (Japanese) I find example sentences to be very helpful. I added lots of natural examples to this post and PDF to help you master this grammar.



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