



English grammar



THERE and IT

How to use the adverb THERE

The adverb **THERE** is used with the verb to be to say that something exists.

“**There** is a new cafe on Main street.” = a new cafe exists on Main st.

There sometimes means **in**, **at**, or **to** a place.

“I went there this morning. The coffee is nice.” = I went **to** the café.

How to use the pronoun IT

The pronoun **IT** is used to refer to **a specific thing, place, or fact**. It is not used to refer to a person or people.

IT is used as the **subject of a sentence** that is talking about *time*, *distance*, or *the weather*.

IT is used to refer to **a situation that is well-known or happening now**.

THERE – More examples

- **There** is a big dog outside.
- The new café on Front St. is very popular. **There** is a big line at the counter every morning.

- Our national team won the soccer tournament last night! **There** were many people dancing in the stadium.

There sometimes means in, at, or to a *place*.

- Mike said that he saw you **there** yesterday. = *Mike saw you in the café.*
- I walked by the new café on Front St. yesterday, I saw a lot of people **there**. = *I saw a lot of people at the café.*
- The coffee is really good, I went **there** yesterday. = *I went to the café.*



- Do you like Starbucks? I go **there** sometimes.

We often use THERE with modal verbs

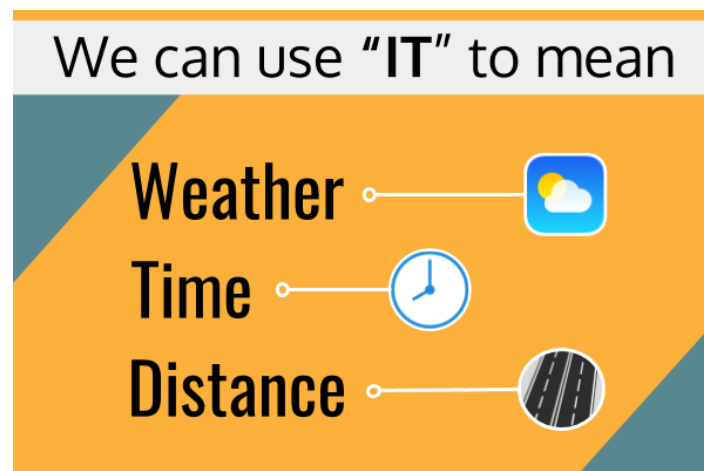
- Keep your eyes open, **there could be** deer walking around the forest.
- **There might be** a few people from my school at the party.
- **There may be** over three hundred people at the party.
There must be a faster way to get to the party.

[Can Could May Might Must -Your #1 Modal Verb guide \(Quiz+PDF\)](#)

IT – More examples

We use the pronoun **it** if we are talking about a specific thing, place, or situation.

- My neighbor's dog is noisy. **It's** always barking.
It = the dog
- I want to try the new café, but **it's** always very busy.
It = the café
- I didn't expect Barry to come to the party, so when I saw him **it** was a nice surprise.
It = the fact that Barry came to the party



It is also used to talk about the weather, time, or distance (to travel somewhere)

- **It** was cold yesterday. = *The temperature was cold yesterday.*
- The news said **it** will rain tomorrow.
- **It's** (**It** has) been a long time since I went to see a movie. = *The time from now until the last time I went to see a movie is long.*
- How far is **it** from your house to your school? = *We can answer this kind of question with **distance** or **time**.*

“How far is it from your house to your school?”

Distance “**It's** about 3 kilometers.”

Time “**It's** about 10 minutes by bicycle.”

It is also used like this.

- **It** isn't good to eat too much chocolate. – This is a natural way to say: If you eat too much chocolate the result is not good.

In these types of sentences, we naturally start with “**It**.”

- **It** isn't safe to walk alone at night.
- **It's** too bad that your bike got stolen.
- I finished a 1000-piece puzzle! **It** only took me 90 minutes!

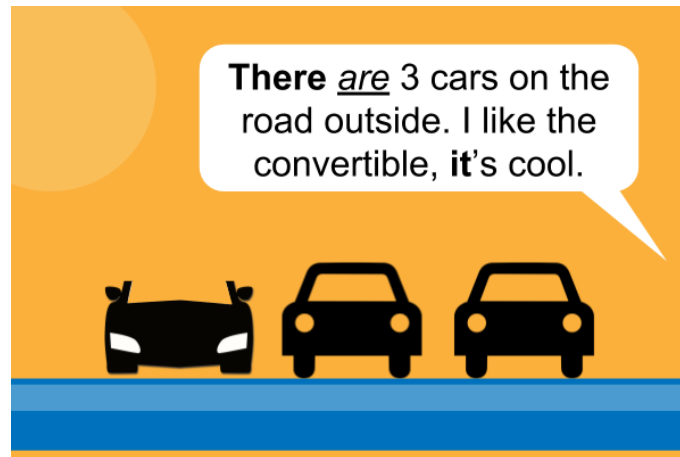
There or It?

THERE points to the existence of the subject of a sentence.

“**There** is a dog on the corner.”

IT is a pronoun and will be used as the subject of a sentence.

“**It’s** raining now.” **IT is sometimes called a dummy subject – it refers to the weather. We don’t say “The weather is raining.”*



- “**There are** 3 cars on the road outside.”
*Here we are talking about the fact that 3 cars are on the road. (they exist) We use **THERE** in this sentence.*
- “I like the convertible, **it’s** cool.”
*Now we are talking about a specific car, the convertible. We use **IT** in this sentence.*


THERE and IT with questions

We use a form of the verb *TO BE* in front of **THERE** and **IT** to make a question.

- Is **there** a soccer game on TV tonight?
- Were **there** many people at the club?
- Is **it** safe at night in your hometown?
- How was the coffee at the new café? Was **it** good?

THERE and IT Video

Watch the video below to review the grammar and improve your English listening skills!

 THERE and IT (Easy English Grammar)



Post quiz answers

- Rain – tomorrow
 - Will **it** rain tomorrow?
- Distance (how far) – to the supermarket
 - Is **it** far from the supermarket? [*How far is it to the supermarket?*] is okay too. **Good job if you got it!**
- Bookstore – nearby
 - Is **there** a bookstore nearby?