There is – There are

We use **there is** and **there are** to say that something exists.

We use **there is** for singular and **there are** for the plural.

Positive sentences

There is **and** *there are* **examples.**

- **There is** one table in the classroom.

- **There are** ten chairs in the classroom.

- **There is** a spider in the bath.

- **There are** many people at the seashore.

Contractions

The contraction of "there is" is **there's.**

Example

- There's a good song on the radio.

- There's only one toy left in the box.

You cannot contract **there are.**

- **There are** two cats on the roof.

- **There are** four rooms in this house.

Negative Sentences

The negative is formed by putting **not** after **is** or **are.**

Examples

- **There is** not a horse in the field.

- **There are** not eight children in the school.

- **There is** not a tree in the garden.

- **There are** not two elephants in the zoo.

The negative contractions are,

There's not = There isn't

There are not = There aren't

There are with "any"

Then we want to indicate that a zero quantity of something exists we use **there aren't any.**

- **There aren't** *any* people at the party.

- **There aren't** *any* trees in my street.

We also use this structure with uncountable nouns.

- **There isn't** *any water* in the swimming pool.

- **There isn't** *any sugar* in my coffee.

Questions

To form a question we place **is/are** in front of **there.** Again we use **any** with plural questions or those which use uncountable nouns.

We also use **there is / are** in short answers.

- Is there a dog in the supermarket? **No, there isn't.**

- Are there any children in the park? **Yes, there are.**

- Is there a security guard in the shop? **Yes, there is.**

- Are there any polar bears in Antarctica? **No, there aren't.**

- Is there any ice-cream in the freezer? **Yes, there is.**

How many with **are there**

If we want to find out the number of objects that exist we use **How many** in the following form.

How many + plural noun + are there (+complement).

- **How many** dogs *are there* in the park?

- **How many** students *are there* in your class?

- **How many** countries *are there* in South America?

- **How many** Star Wars films *are there*?