

How to use there is / there are in English?

We use *there is* (singular) and *there are* (plural) to talk about the presence of someone or something. It is translated as 'there is' in French:

- [There is](#) a book on the table.
- [There are](#) two books on the table.

In negative sentences:

- There is not a book on the table (*on peut dire aussi: There is no book on the table*)
- There are not two books on the table (*on peut dire aussi: There are no books on the table*)

In the questions:

- Is there a book on the table?
- Are there two books on the table?

To answer, you can say:

- Yes, there is / No, there isn't
- Yes, there are / No, there aren't

The contractions:

- There is = There's
- There is not = There's not / there isn't
- There are not = There aren't (not there're)

Orally, *there's* is more used than *there is*:

- There's a party tomorrow night near the lake.
- There's some pizza in the fridge.

Note: even if this is incorrect, English speakers often use *there's* orally, even if they speak several things:

- There's four other people waiting outside.

There was / There were

In the past, we use *there was* (singular) and *there were* (plural):

- There was a spider in the kitchen.
- There were children playing in the park.

Constructions with There / auxiliary / be

- There will be
- There is going to be
- There used to be
- There could be
- There should be
- There would be
- There must be

Some examples of possible uses:

- There will be too many people.
- There could be a problem.
- There should be a solution.
- There must be toilets nearby.

 BE CAREFUL !

1 - To express duration, we use **Ago**

- I went to Tokyo two weeks ago. (et pas 'I went to Tokyo there's three weeks')

2 - Don't confuse: They're, Their, and There!!

- They're = They are
- Their = possession

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