

Table of Contents

Quick and handy grammar review articles	2
Exercise 1: <i>Description of the Photograph - Subject / Verb Agreement</i>	4
Grammar Notes: <i>Make sentences from the list of nouns about the image on the previous page.</i>	5
Exercise 2: <i>Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.</i>	5
Exercise 3: <i>Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.</i>	6
Exercise 4: <i>Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.</i>	7
Exercise 5: <i>Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.</i>	7
Exercise 6: <i>Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.</i>	8
Exercise 7: <i>Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.</i>	8
Exercise 8: <i>Write questions with “there is” / “there are” to fit the following answers.</i>	9
Answer Key	10

Quick and Handy Grammar Review : Subject - Verb Agreement, Using *there is / there are*

One of the most important aspects of proper grammar is the agreement between the **subject** of the sentence and the **verb**. Mistakes in agreement are common, but you can correct them easily and quickly. There are several rules for subject and verb agreement.

There is and There are

Especially when we describe a place, we are very likely to begin sentences with the word **there**. **There** is a strange word: when it is used as the subject of the sentence, **there** is a *pronoun*. But is it singular or plural? Actually, there can be used in either the singular or the plural. Most of the time, **there** is followed by a form of the verb *to be* (is, are, was, were, will be). We must be very careful which form of *to be* to use. Let's analyze a few sentences.

There usually begins the sentence. It is followed by a form of the verb *to be*. Whether we use the singular or the plural verb depends on the words that follow the verb. For example:

There (is / are) many students in this room.

Which verb form should we use? Look at the words after the verb: *many students*. This is a plural noun. Therefore, we must use the verb *are*. **There are many students in this room** is correct. Now let's look at another example:

There (is / are) a bird in the kitchen.

Again, look at the words after the verb. Here we have a singular noun: *bird*. For this reason, we use the verb *is*. The correct sentence reads: **There is a bird in the kitchen.**

Pay particular attention to count and non-count nouns. Plural nouns take **are**. Singular nouns and non-count nouns take **is**. Look at these examples:

There (is / are) some coffee in the refrigerator.

There (is / are) two dirty cups on the table.

Quick and Handy Grammar Review Articles *Continued*:

The first sentence uses the noun **coffee** after the verb. **Coffee** is *non-count*, so the verb should be **is**. In the second sentence, **cups** is a *count* noun and it is in the plural form; as a result, we use the verb **are**.

The same rules for subject and verb agreement with **there** apply to the past tense, where the forms of the verb *to be* are **was** and **were**.

There **were** two cats in the basement.

[*cats* is a plural noun, so we use **were**]

There **were** fifteen players on each team in the soccer game.

[*players* is plural]

There **was** a soldier on the train.

[*soldier* is singular, so we use **was**]

There **was** a terrible hurricane in Florida last year.

[*hurricane* is a singular noun]

In the future tense, there are no choices to make. The form **will be** is used for both singular and plural nouns.

There **will be** a big surprise party for Jorge's birthday.

There **will be** two examinations in Grammar class this semester.

Party is singular and *examinations* is plural, but this fact does not affect the verb: **will be** is used with all subjects in the future.

Special Rule: When it introduces a count noun in the plural, **there** is followed by a plural form of *to be*. But when **there** is followed by a series of singular nouns connected by the conjunction **and**, the singular form of *to be* is used.

There **is** a new refrigerator and an old table in the kitchen.

There **was** a string quartet and a piano soloist at the concert.

There **is** a time and a place to remain silent.

Questions with *there is* and *there are*.

The same rules apply to questions using **there is** and **there are**. As in all questions, the normal subject / verb word order is inverted. The verb goes first, followed by the subject (there). In the future tense, the word **there** goes between **will** and **be**.

Are there many people in the restaurant?

Is there enough cheese for everyone?

Was there a big celebration after the World Cup finals?

Were there any tigers and lions at the zoo?

Will there **be** another test before the end of the month?

Will there **be** two or three types of coffee served?

Exercise 1:

Look at the image. Make a list of the nouns that you see.

[illegible]

Write 10 sentences. Use the following structures:

- a. There is + a + noun + prepositional phrase (preposition + article + noun).
There is a dog on the carpet. There is a sugar bowl on the table.
- b. There are + plural noun + prepositional phrase.
There are flowers on the table. There are two cups on the table.
- c. Article + noun + is / are + prepositional phrase
The dog is on the carpet. The sugar bowl is on the table.
- d. Prepositional phrase + , + there is + a + noun
On the carpet, there is a dog.

Grammar Notes:

1. In a sentence that begins with *there is*, the only article that you can use is *a/an*. You cannot use *the*.
*There is **a** dog on the floor.* **Incorrect:** *There is **the** dog on the floor.*
2. Once you have introduced the noun, in the next sentence you can use *the*.
*There is **a** dog on the floor. **The** dog is resting.*
3. In a sentence that begins with *there are*, no articles are used.
There are flowers on the mantel. There are dogs in the photograph.
4. Remember to use a singular verb when a singular noun is followed by *and* and another noun or a list.
There is a small dog and a large dog in the photograph.
There is a small dog, a large dog, and a table in the photograph.

Make sentences from the list of nouns about the image on the previous page.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Exercise 2:

Subject and verb agreement: Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.

1. There (**is** / **are**) only one reason to stay at this terrible job: it is close to home.
2. There (**is** / **are**) two places that Joe would like to visit: Antarctica and China.
3. There (**is** / **are**) a new couch, a new table, and a new lamp in the living room.
4. There (**is** / **are**) three pages of exercises to do for homework.
5. There (**is** / **are**) several interesting old buildings on the main street.
6. (**Is** / **Are**) there many biology textbooks left in the bookstore?
7. (**Is** / **Are**) there any students from Brazil in the class?
8. (**Is** / **Are**) there another way to get to school instead of Route 17?
9. (**Was** / **Were**) there a big parade yesterday in Philadelphia?
10. There (**is** / **are**) no good reason to lie to your mother.

Exercise 3:

Subject and verb agreement: Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.

1. (**Was** / **Were**) there six or seven mistakes in that paragraph?
2. There (**is** / **are**) a time and a place to fool around and a time and a place to be serious.
3. There (**is** / **are**) a woman from Turkey in the cafeteria.
4. There (**is** / **are**) two table lamps in the living room.
5. There (**was** / **were**) two World Wars in the twentieth century.
6. There (**was** / **were**) a big sale at Macy’s last Wednesday.
7. (**Is** / **Are**) there another teacher for Reading Level 1?
8. (**Was** / **were**) there any food left after the party?
9. There (**is** / **are**) a lot of students from South America at the college now.
10. There (**was** / **were**) a rabbit in my backyard last evening.

Exercise 4:

Subject and verb agreement: Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.

Sue’s New Apartment

Sue is renting a new apartment. (**There is / There are**) three rooms. (**There is / there are**) a large living room. She has a couch, a love seat, and a chair in the room. (**There is / There are**) also two end tables and a coffee table. (**There is / There are**) a small kitchen next to the living room. In the kitchen, (**there is / there are**) a refrigerator, a stove, and a microwave. (**There is / There are**) also four chairs and a kitchen table. Finally (**there is / there are**) a medium-sized bedroom. The best thing about the bedroom is that (**there is / there are**) three windows, so (**there is / there are**) always a lot of sunlight in the room. Sue is very happy with her new apartment.

Exercise 5:

Error Correction. Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

1. There are an empty apartment in my building.

2. There are five student from Vietnam in our class.

3. There is the cat on the chair.

4. There are a book and a pencil on the desk.

5. There was two wars in the last ten years.

6. There was wineglasses of wine in the sink.

7. Are there another professor Accounting II?

8. Were there any chicken left after the dinner?

9. There is a lot of people from Asia in the school now.

10. There was two squirrels in my backyard this morning.

Exercise 6:

Error Correction. Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

1. Is there two book on the table?

2. There are a dog and a cat in the basement.

3. There is the pillow on the bed.

4. There are two blanket on the couch.

5. There was two classes cancelled yesterday.

6. There will to be an extra class next Thursday.

7. Is there two or three exits from the parking lot?

8. Will there to be a game tomorrow?

9. There are a lot of homework in that class.

10. There were a scratch on my car yesterday.

Exercise 7:

Subject and verb agreement: Circle the correct form of the verb “to be” in parentheses.

1. There (**was** / **were**) six students in the cafeteria.
2. There (**is** / **are**) a chair, a table, and a lamp in the family room.
3. There (**is** / **are**) three women from Russia in the classroom.
4. There (**is** / **are**) a couch in the bedroom.
5. There (**was** / **were**) two accidents on the highway yesterday.
6. There (**was** / **were**) a big party after the election.
7. There (**is** / **are**) two vacuum cleaners in the apartment.
8. (**Was** / **were**) there any survivors from the plane crash?
9. There (**is** / **are**) many students at the bus stop at 8:30 a.m..
10. There (**was** / **were**) a car in my driveway last night.

Exercise 8:

Write questions with there is / there are to fit the following answers.

The question form for quantity and there is / there are is:

How much tea is there in the cabinet? (How much + is there is used for singular nouns or non-count nouns)

How many people are there in the room? (How many + are there is used for plural nouns or count nouns)

1. Sixteen slices of pizza.

2. One pound.

3. Three desks.

4. One bottle.

5. Two sticks of butter.

6. 25,000 people.

7. Seven glasses of water?

8. Five books?

9. Five oceans.

10. Seven continents.
