

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

there was/there were

1 Circle the correct options.

- There was / There were a team of archaeologists in Naples.
- There was / There were some kitchen furniture in the exhibition.
- Was there / Were there any travellers in the storm?
- There wasn't / There weren't any information about the objects.
- Was there / Were there a school in Herculaneum?
- There was / There were some old books in the box.
- There wasn't / There weren't any clothes in the ruins.

2 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- wasn't / rain / month / There / any / last
There wasn't any rain last month.
- display / any / There / the / weren't / interesting / in / things
There were some interesting things in the display.
- people / exhibition / there / the / at / many / Were / ?
Were there many people at the exhibition?
- old / baby / with / an / woman / There / a / was
There was an old woman with a baby.
- there / box / Was / any / the / jewellery / in / ?
Was there any jewellery in the box?
- Naples / hundreds / were / in / tourists / There / of
There were hundreds of tourists in Naples.

3 Match 1-6 with a-f.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 There were some ☒ | a interesting display of jewellery. |
| 2 Was there a ☐ | b information about Herculaneum? |
| 3 There weren't any ☐ | c useful objects in the kitchen? |
| 4 There was an ☐ | d women in the team. |
| 5 Was there any ☐ | e Roman bowls in the museum. |
| 6 Were there any ☐ | f mirror in the woman's bag? |

4 Complete the email with some, any, a or an.

TO: Lily
FROM: Tom

Hi Lily!

How are you? Just a quick email to tell you about our trip to Brazil! Yesterday there was ¹ a big storm, so we had a day of culture. We walked around the city and there was ² a fascinating museum called the Museum of Tomorrow, so we decided to go in. It's ³ a science museum in Rio, but ⁴ an architect from Spain designed it. There were ⁵ some amazing exhibitions about our planet, and there was ⁶ some very interesting information about it, too. There weren't ⁷ any postcards in the museum shop, but there was ⁸ an interesting little book, so I bought you that! Hope you like it!

Speak soon,
Tom

5 Look at the two museum displays and complete the texts with there was(n't)/ there were(n't), a, an, some or any.

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¹ There was an interesting display with objects from a Roman kitchen at our local museum. ² some wooden bowls and ³ knives and forks, but there weren't ⁴ spoons. There was ⁵ a metal water bottle. There was also ⁶ some very old bread – over a thousand years old, in fact. Yummy!

My favourite display had lovely objects from a woman's bedroom. There was ⁷ an old mirror and ⁸ some gold jewellery. She was probably ⁹ an important person. ¹⁰ She had a beautiful necklace and a bracelet too, but ¹¹ no earrings. And there was a comb with ¹² some human hair in it.