

There and It sentences

Using *There* and *It* at the beginning of sentences

In this unit you learn about using **There was**, **There has been**, **There will be** and **It** at the beginning of sentences.

You use **There is** and **There are** when you are talking about the present. You can also use **There** + **be** with other tenses.

There was/were

There weren't any apples so I bought oranges instead.

There has/have been

There has been a lot of sport on TV this summer.

There will be

There will be lots of people at the party.

You use **It** before **be**

- to talk about the weather:

It was very sunny yesterday.

- to talk about time:

It will be very late when we get home.

You can also use **it** with **take**:

A: How long **did it take** to get here?

B: About three hours.

- to express your opinions:

It was a really good film.

It's going to be a very expensive holiday.

- to describe a scene in the past:

It was a cold day in December.

It was a great day for swimming.

Exercise 1

Choose the correct word.

- 1 There **was** / **wasn't** / **hadn't** anyone in the room when I arrived.
- 2 It **will** / **has** / **is** take three hours to reach Prague.
- 3 **Have** / **Was** / **Did** there been any phone calls for me?
- 4 How many people **was** / **were** / **been** there at the party?
- 5 **Was** / **Has** / **Did** it rain when you were in Spain?

Exercise 2

Put each sentence into the correct order.

- 1 building / is / in / there / a doctor / this / ?

- 2 holiday / it / a / been / wonderful / has / .

- 3 the house / easy / won't / to find / it / be / .

- 4 problems / weren't / the car / there / with / any / .

- 5 cold / night / outdoors / was / last / it / ?

- 6 a / is / to be / storm / going / there / .

Exercise 3

Choose the correct word or words.

Hi Cristina

How are you? ¹**There's** / **It's** strange to be so far away from you and my other friends, but some of the people at my new school are very nice. ²**There was** / **It was** a bit difficult at first, but now I feel OK.

The school is good. ³**There's been** / **It's been** a school here since 1820. Isn't that amazing? Anyway, ⁴**there have been** / **it has been** a lot of changes since then!

The sports centre is very good. ⁵**There was** / **It was** an international match here last year and I hope they'll have one again this year so I can play in it. ⁶**There isn't** / **It isn't** easy to get into the team, but I think I can.

Write and tell me the news from home soon.

Love

Pia

Exercise 4

Decide if the pairs of sentences have the same meaning.

- 1 A It was a very crowded club. ☐
B The club was very crowded. ☐
- 2 A There wasn't anywhere for us to sit. ☐
B It wasn't easy to find our seats. ☐
- 3 A It was very late when we got home. ☐
B We arrived home very late. ☐
- 4 A There's going to be a big party at the end of term. ☐
B We're planning a big end-of-term party. ☐
- 5 A It was snowing when I left home this morning. ☐
B The snow started when I was walking to work this morning. ☐

Exercise 5

Which sentences are correct?

- 1 There were a lot of people at the concert last weekend. ☐
- 2 It was problem for me to understand all the rules. ☐
- 3 It was surprisingly easy to get into the palace. ☐
- 4 Has it been an accident on the motorway? ☐
- 5 There will be expensive to fly, so let's drive. ☐
- 6 There was a lovely, sunny day and the beach was crowded. ☐

Exercise 6

Write the correct form of the words in brackets to complete each sentence.

- 1 You're very wet! _____ (it rain)?
- 2 I'm still hungry. _____ (there be) any more sandwiches in that box?
- 3 I'm not sure if these shoes are the right colour. _____ (it be) possible to change them if I bring them back next week?
- 4 _____ (there be) no one at the house, so we couldn't go in and look round.
- 5 Why didn't you call me? _____ (there not be) a phone in the bus station?
- 6 I've just checked the weather forecast and _____ (it be) fine all weekend. Let's go camping.