

“There + Be” Structures

1. There is / There are (Present Simple)

- ♣ There is = singular noun or uncountable noun
- ♣ There are = plural nouns

Used when we are talking about something that exists now.

Examples:

- There is a book on the table.
- There is some milk in the fridge.
- There are three dogs in the yard, and one of them *showed up* at our door last night out of nowhere.

🧠 Mini practice:

Complete with *there is* or *there are*:

1. _____ a lot of traffic today.
 2. _____ many reasons to be happy.
 3. _____ an special person right in front of me.
-

2. There was / There were (Past Simple)

- ♣ There was = one thing or uncountable
- ♣ There were = more than one thing

Used for something that existed or happened in the past.

Examples:

- There was a moment during the trip when I couldn't believe my luck — I found \$100.000 in a taxi!
- There were so many people at the event that I got *mixed up ideas* about where I was supposed to go.

🧠 Mini practice:

Complete with *there was* or *there were*:

1. _____ some strange noises outside.
 2. _____ only one kid in the park.
-


3. There has/have been (Present Perfect)

- ♣ There has been = one experience or event.
- ♣ There have been = more than one event.

Used for experiences or events that happened at some point in the past and, they are still relevant now.

Examples:

- There has been a difficult situation lately when I just had to *take a deep breath* and stay calm.
- There have been several mistakes in the plan, but *we need to move on and forget about it* now.

 Mini practice:

Complete with *there has been* or *there have been*:

1. _____ a delay in your flight.
 2. _____ several accidents on this road lately.
 3. _____ no news from her today.
-

4. There had been (Past Perfect)

Use this to describe something that happened before another past event.

Examples:

- There had been a lot of confusion before the meeting started — nobody knew who was in charge, and it was *a dumb thing to do* please we should have checked in advance.
- There had been so many things wrong during the celebration, but when my mom *showed up*, everything fell into place.

 Mini practice:

Complete with *there had been*:

1. By the time I arrived, _____ a power cut.
2. We didn't swim because _____ a shark sighting earlier.

3. She was tired because _____ a lot of stress that week.



Yesterday was one of those days I'll never forget. Everything started when I went to the park for a walk. **There was** a light breeze and **there were** a few people jogging or walking their dogs.

As I turned the corner near the coffee shop, someone suddenly **bumped right into me**. I looked up, ready to complain, but it was my childhood friend Luis! I **can't believe my luck** — I hadn't seen him in over ten years.

We decided to get a coffee and catch up. As we talked, I realized **there have been** many changes in both of our lives. He got married, we have lived abroad, and now he was visiting the city just for a few days. "Wow," I said, "we were really **at the right place at the right time**."

We laughed a lot remembering the silly things we did as kids. Back then, I often had **mixed up ideas** about the world, and Luis always tried to explain things to me. We stayed at the café for over an hour, and I forgot I had a meeting at work.

When I got to the office, my boss had already started the meeting, and I had missed half of it. I felt nervous, so I **took a deep breath** and walked in. I tried to apologize, but she just said, "**There's no use in crying over spilled milk**. Just sit down and take notes."

During the meeting, my phone buzzed. It was a message from Luis saying, "Don't stress about today — just **move on and forget about it**." He was right. It really wasn't the end of the world.

Later that evening, I remembered that **there had been** a similar situation last year when I showed up late because of traffic. My boss wasn't very happy back then either. Being late again was definitely **a dumb thing to do**, but this time I had a good reason. At least I **showed up**, and that's what mattered.

When I got home, I smiled. It was an unexpected afternoon full of memories, mistakes, and second chances.