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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.*

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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

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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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS