

There ... and it ...

A

Study this example:



We use **there** ... when we talk about something for the first time, to say that it exists:

- ☐ **There's** a new restaurant in Hill Street. (*not* A new restaurant is in Hill Street)
- ☐ I'm sorry I'm late. **There was** a lot of traffic. (*not* It was a lot of traffic)
- ☐ Things are more expensive now. **There has been** a big rise in the cost of living.

It = a specific thing, place, fact, situation etc. (but see also **Section C**):

- ☐ We went to the new restaurant. **It's** very good. (**It** = the restaurant)
- ☐ I wasn't expecting them to come. **It** was a complete surprise. (**It** = that they came)

Compare **there** and **it**:

- ☐ I don't like this town. **There's** nothing to do here. **It's** a boring place.

There also means 'to/at/in that place':

- ☐ When we got to the party, there were already a lot of people **there** (= at the party).

B

You can say **there will be** / **there must be** / **there might be** / **there used to be** etc.:

- ☐ Will you be busy tomorrow? **Will there be** much to do?
- ☐ 'Is there a flight to Rome tonight?' 'There might be. I'll check the website.'
- ☐ If people drove more carefully, **there wouldn't be** so many accidents.

Also **there must have been**, **there should have been** etc.:

- ☐ I could hear music coming from the house. **There must have been** somebody at home.

Compare **there** and **it**:

- ☐ They live on a busy road. **There must be** a lot of noise from the traffic.
- ☐ They live on a busy road. **It must be** very noisy.
- ☐ **There used to be** a cinema here, but it closed a few years ago.
- ☐ That building is now a supermarket. **It used to be** a cinema.

You can also say **there is sure** / **bound** (= sure) / **likely** to be Compare **there** and **it**:

- ☐ **There's sure to be** a flight to Rome tonight. (*or* **There's bound to be** ...)
- ☐ There's a flight to Rome tonight, but **it's sure to be** full. (**it** = the flight)

C

We also use **it** in sentences like this:

- ☐ **It's** dangerous **to walk in the road**.

We do not usually say 'To walk in the road is dangerous'. Normally we begin with **It**

Some more examples:

- ☐ **It** didn't take us long **to get here**.
- ☐ **It's** a shame (**that**) **you can't come to the party**.
- ☐ Let's go. **It's** not worth **waiting any longer**.

We also use **it** to talk about distance, time and weather:

- ☐ How far is **it** from here to the airport?
- ☐ What day is **it** today?
- ☐ **It's** a long time since we saw you last.
- ☐ **It** was windy yesterday. (*but* **There** was a cold wind.)

It's worth / it's no use / there's no point → [Unit 63](#)

Sure to / bound to ... etc. → [Unit 65E](#)

There is + -ing/-ed → [Unit 97](#)

84.1 Put in **there is/was** or **it is/was**. Some sentences are questions (**is there ... ? / is it ... ?** etc.) and some are negative (**isn't/wasn't**).

- The journey took a long time. There was a lot of traffic.
- What's this restaurant like? Is it good?
- something wrong with the computer. Can you check it for me?
- I wanted to visit the museum, but enough time.
- 'What's that building? a hotel?' 'No, a theatre.'
- How do we get across the river? a bridge?
- A few days ago a big storm, which caused a lot of damage.
- I can't find my phone. in my bag – I just looked.
- It's often cold here, but much snow.
- 'How was your trip?' '..... a disaster. Everything went wrong.'
- anything on television, so I turned it off.
- '..... a bookshop near here?' 'Yes, one in Hudson Street.'
- When we got to the cinema, a queue outside. a very long queue, so we decided not to wait.
- I couldn't see anything. completely dark.
- difficult to get a job right now. a lot of unemployment.

84.2 Read the first sentence and then write a sentence beginning **There ...**

- The roads were busy yesterday. There was a lot of traffic.
- This soup is very salty. There in the soup.
- The box was empty. in the box.
- The film is very violent.
- The shopping mall was crowded.
- I like this town – it's lively.

84.3 Complete the sentences. Use **there will be**, **there would be** etc. Choose from:

will may ~~would~~ wouldn't should used to (be) going to

- If people drove more carefully, there would be fewer accidents.
- 'Do we have any eggs?' 'I'm not sure. some in the fridge.'
- I think everything will be OK. I don't think any problems.
- Look at the sky. a storm.
- 'Is there a school in the village?' 'Not now. one, but it closed.'
- People drive too fast on this road. I think a speed limit.
- If people weren't aggressive, any wars.

84.4 Are these sentences right or wrong? Change **it** to **there** where necessary.

- They live on a busy road. It must be a lot of noise. There must be a lot of noise.
- It's a long way from my house to the nearest shop.
- After the lecture it will be an opportunity to ask questions.
- I like where I live, but it would be nicer to live by the sea.
- Why was she so unfriendly? It must have been a reason.
- It's three years since I last went to the theatre.
- A: Where can we park the car?
B: Don't worry. It's sure to be a car park somewhere.
- It was Ken's birthday yesterday. We had a party.
- The situation is still the same. It has been no change.
- It used to be a church here, but it was knocked down.
- I was told that it would be somebody to meet me at the station, but it wasn't anybody.
- I don't know who'll win, but it's sure to be a good game.