

There is / There are

1. Presentation

“**There is**” and “**there are**” are used to indicate the existence of a certain thing or certain things in a certain place.

- “There is” is used for **singular countable nouns**.
- “There is” is also used for **uncountable nouns**.
- “There are” is used for **plural countable nouns**.

With countable nouns

These are any nouns (objects) that can be numbered. i.e. nouns that have a plural form.

a book > two books

- **There is a book on the table.**
- **There are two books on the table.**

With uncountable nouns

These are nouns used to speak of mass or nouns that take no plural form.

- **There is some sugar in the cupboard.**
- **There is some water in the bottle.**

Contracted forms

- “**There is**” contracts to **there’s**.
- “**There are**” is not contracted in written expression but can be heard in oral expression by some English speakers.

Negative forms

The **negative** is formed by adding the word **not**.

- **There is not / There’s not / There isn’t**
- **There are not / There aren’t**

2. With “How much?” and “How many?”

These questions are used to obtain information on the quantity of the object in question.

For countable nouns we use how many :

- How many children are there at the party?
- How many eggs are there in the fridge?

For uncountable nouns we use how much :

- How much paper is there in one tree?
- How much sugar is there in this cake?
- How much water is there the swimming pool?

3. Quantifiers

Some - any - a lot - a little - a few: these words are used to express undefined quantities.

Some

Some is used to express a positive quantity but does not say “**how much**” or “**how many**”.

- There are some cars parked outside the house.
- There is some ice cream in the freezer.

Any

Any is used to express a negative quantity or to ask a question about the existence of something.

- There isn't any bread on the table.
- Is there any cheese in the fridge?
- Are there any bears in those mountains?
- There aren't any batteries in the torch.

A lot (of)

A **lot of** is used to express a larger quantity than **some**.

- **There is a lot of noise in the street.**
- **There are a lot of people in the shops.**

A little (not much)

A **little** is used to give a small positive quantity of an **uncountable noun**.

- **There is a little time left.**
- **There's a little sugar in my coffee.**

A few (not many)

A **few** is used to give a small positive quantity of a **countable noun**.

- **There are a few minutes left.**
- **There are a few dogs in the park.**

Too / Enough

These words indicate a surplus or a sufficiency or insufficiency.

Too many – is used to say when there is more than is necessary of a countable noun.

Too much – is used to indicate that there is more than necessary of an uncountable noun.

Enough – this indicates that there is a sufficient quantity of countable or uncountable nouns.

Not enough – indicates the contrary i.e. an insufficient quantity.

- **There are too many / There is too much**
- **There are enough / There is enough**
- **Are there enough? / Is there enough?**
- **Are there enough? / Is there enough?**
- **There aren't enough / There isn't enough**