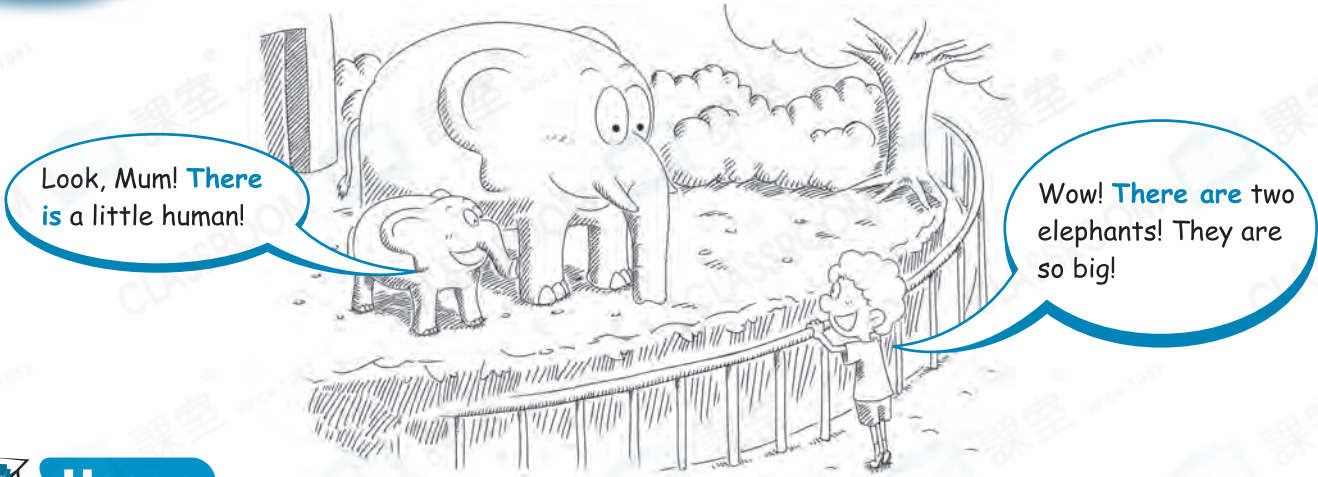


14

There + verb to be



Usage

- We use *there is / are* to show that someone or something exists **now**.
e.g. *There is a shopping mall in this street now.*
- We use *there was / were* to show that someone or something existed **in the past**.
e.g. *There was a grocery store in this street ten years ago.*



Part 1 Statements

When forming positive statements with *there + verb to be*, we use *there is / was* with singular or uncountable nouns, and *there are / were* with plural nouns.

	The simple present	The simple past
Uncountable / singular noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is <u>juice</u> in the bottle. • There is <u>a bird</u> in the nest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was <u>water</u> in the bottle yesterday. • There was <u>an egg</u> in the nest last week.
Plural noun	There are <u>fast food restaurants</u> everywhere.	There were <u>rickshaws</u> thirty years ago.

When forming negative statements with *there + verb to be*, we put *not* after *there + verb to be*.

	The simple present	The simple past
Uncountable / singular noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not / isn't any <u>food</u> left. • There is not / isn't <u>a toy shop</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was not / wasn't any <u>milk</u> left. • There was not / wasn't <u>a gift shop</u>.
Plural noun	There are not / aren't any <u>cars</u> .	There were not / weren't any <u>high rises</u> .



Educator's Tips



We use *no* in positive statements with uncountable or plural nouns.

e.g. *There is no coffee in the cup.* (Uncountable)

e.g. *There were no planes 200 years ago.* (Plural)

We use *any* in negative statements with uncountable or plural nouns.

e.g. *There isn't any air in a vacuum flask.* (Uncountable)

e.g. *There weren't any red pens in the pencil case.* (Plural)

Exercise 1

Look at the pictures and complete the sentences in the simple present or past tense with the words in brackets.

1.



yesterday

There was not any sunlight

(sunlight) in the room.

2.



now

(a hamburger) on the plate.

3.



last year

(aliens) on that planet.

4.



now

(apples) in the fridge.

5.



two days ago

(fish) in the lake.

6.



now

(an eggplant) in the garden.



Part 2 Yes / No-questions

It is common to use *any* when forming questions with uncountable or plural countable nouns.





	The simple present	The simple past
Uncountable / singular noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any <u>meat</u> in the soup? • Is there a <u>lifeguard</u> here? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there any <u>juice</u> in the jar? • Was there a <u>swimming pool</u>?
Plural noun	Are there any <u>leaves</u> on the tree?	Were there any <u>mice</u> in the kitchen?

We form short answers with *there* + verb *to be* in the following ways:

	The simple present	The simple past
Uncountable / singular noun	Yes, there is . No, there is not / isn't .	Yes, there was . No, there was not / wasn't .
Plural	Yes, there are . No, there are not / aren't .	Yes, there were . No, there were not / weren't .

Exercise 2

Look at the pictures describing modern and old Hong Kong. Form questions and answers using the correct form of verb 'to be' + 'there' and the words given.

Modern Hong Kong	Old Hong Kong
<p>1.  ✓</p> <p>(Octopus cards)</p> <p>Q: <u>Are there any Octopus cards?</u></p> <p>A: <u>Yes, there are.</u></p>	<p>2.  ✓</p> <p>(a temple in Wong Tai Sin)</p> <p>Q: _____</p> <p>A: _____</p>
<p>3.  ✓</p> <p>(a bridge to Ma Wan)</p> <p>Q: _____</p> <p>A: _____</p>	<p>4.  ✗</p> <p>(smartphones)</p> <p>Q: _____</p> <p>A: _____</p>

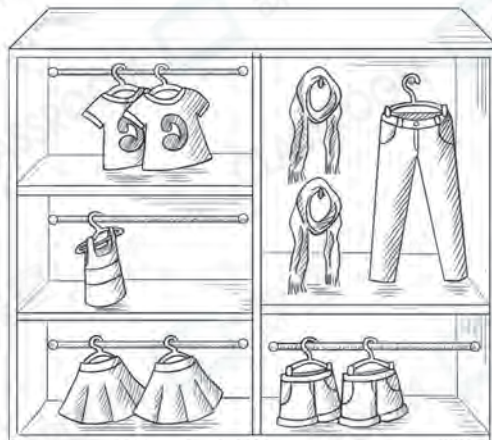
Unit Recap

Winnie is a shop assistant of A's Boutique. She is reporting the **stock** of the boutique to the manager. Look at the following pictures. Complete the conversation with 'there' + verb 'to be' or verb 'to be' + 'there'.

Yesterday



Today



Manager: Winnie, I want to know the stock for today. Firstly, (1) is there a vest on the cabinet?

Winnie: Yes, (2) _____.

Manager: (3) _____ any T-shirts?

Winnie: (4) _____ two of them, but (5) _____ four yesterday.

Manager: (6) _____ a dress yesterday?

Winnie: (7) _____ one yesterday but it was sold this morning.

Manager: So, (8) _____ any dresses now. (9) _____ any skirts then?

Winnie: Yes, (10) _____ two. By the way, (11) _____ no scarves yesterday, but I took two from the storeroom this morning.

Manager: (12) _____ any pairs of shorts yesterday?

Winnie: (13) _____ two pairs but (14) _____ any trousers. So I took one pair of trousers from the storeroom as well.

Manager: Well done, Winnie!



Vocabulary:

stock (n.): the total amount of goods in a shop

cabinet (n.): a piece of furniture with shelves or drawers for storing or showing things