

Subject-Verb Agreement with “There is.../There are...”

Directions for the teacher:

STEP 1 – Use Task A as a quick check to review the rules as necessary.

- The verb agrees with the noun that follows: *There is + (singular noun)/ There are + (plural noun)*
- The verb form will change according to the context: *There is a big crowd. There will be a big crowd. There was a big crowd.*
- If a series of nouns follows “*There,*” the verb still agrees with the noun that immediately follows: *There is a hat, some gloves, and a scarf on the bench.*
- In informal English, some speakers will use “*There’s...*” before a plural noun.

Answers:

1. There are several big bridges in our city.
2. There was a flood here a few years ago.
3. There is a pharmacy and a supermarket around the corner.
4. Is there a copy machine in this building?
5. Someone told me there have been some robberies in this area.
6. Are there any vending machines nearby?
7. I believe there is a gas station and a repair shop just down the street.
8. Is there going to be any kind of reception after the lecture?
9. Do you know if there is an ATM around here?
10. What if there is a flood or power outage?

STEP 2 – Students may work independently on Task B. Answers may be shared and corrected together.

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STEP 3 – Students should work in pairs or small groups to complete Task C.

Subject-Verb Agreement with “There is.../There are...”

A. Underline the correct verb to complete each sentence.

1. There [is/are] several big bridges in our city.
2. There [was/were] a flood here a few years ago.
3. There [is/are] a pharmacy and a supermarket around the corner.
4. [Is/Are] there a copy machine in this building?
5. Someone told me there [has been/ have been] some robberies in this area lately.
6. [Is/Are] there any vending machines nearby?
7. I believe there [is/are] a gas station and a repair shop just down the street.
8. [Is/Are] there going to be any kind of reception after the lecture?
9. Do you know if there [is/are] an ATM around here?
10. What if there [is/are] a flood or power outage?

B. Write 1-2 sentences describing what you see in each photo. Use *there is.../there are...*



- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

C. What do you have in your pockets or your bag? Describe items to a partner and let your partner guess what the objects are.

Models: There's something here that I use for my hair.
- Is it a brush or a comb?

 There are small metal objects I keep on a ring.
- Are they keys?