

# there was/were there has/have been there will be

**A**

**There was / there were (past)**



**There is** a train every hour.

The time now is 11:15.

**There was** a train at 11:00.

Compare:

**there is/are (present)**

- **There is** a good nature program on TV tonight.
- We are staying at a very big hotel. **There are** 1,250 rooms.
- **Are there** any phone messages for me this morning?
- I'm hungry, but **there isn't** anything to eat.

**there was/were (past)**

- **There was** a good nature program on TV last night.
- We stayed at a very big hotel. **There were** 1,250 rooms.
- **Were there** any phone messages for me yesterday?
- I was hungry when I got home, but **there wasn't** anything to eat.

**B**

**There has been / there have been (present perfect)**



- Look! **There's been** an accident. (**there's been** = there **has** been)
- This road is very dangerous. **There have been** many accidents on it.

Compare **there was (past)**:

- **There was** an accident last night. (*not* There has been an accident last night.)

For simple past and present perfect, see Units 19–21.

**C**

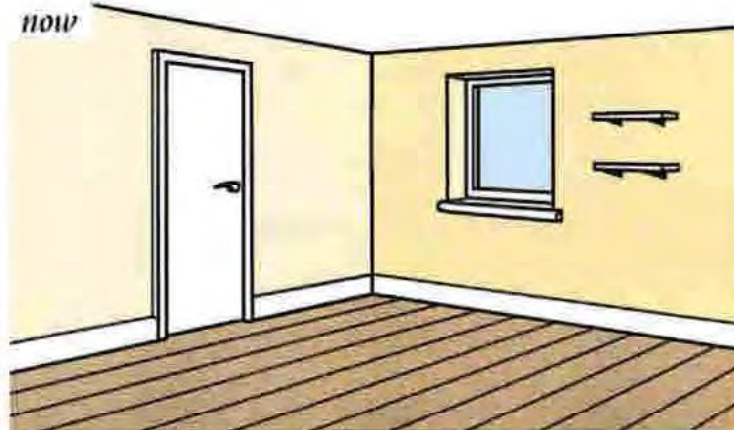
**There will be**



- Do you think **there will be** a lot of people at the party on Saturday?
- The manager of the company is leaving, so **there will be** a new manager soon.
- I'm going out of town tomorrow. I'm packing my things today because **there won't be** time tomorrow. (**there won't be** = there **will not be**)

**39.1** Look at the two pictures. Now the room is empty, but what was in the room last week? Choose from the box and write sentences with *There was ...* or *There were ...*

an armchair    a carpet    some flowers    a sofa  
 some books    ~~a clock~~    three pictures    a small table



1. There was a clock on the wall near the window.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ on the floor.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ on the wall near the door.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the room.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ on the table.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ on the shelves.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ in the corner near the door.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ opposite the armchair.

**39.2** Write *there was / there wasn't / was there or there were / there weren't / were there*.

1. I was hungry, but there wasn't anything to eat.
2. Were there any phone messages for me yesterday?
3. I opened the envelope, but it was empty. \_\_\_\_\_ nothing in it.
4. "We stayed at a very nice hotel." "Really? \_\_\_\_\_ a swimming pool?"
5. "Did you buy any cherries?" "No, \_\_\_\_\_ any at the store."
6. The wallet was empty. \_\_\_\_\_ any money in it.
7. "\_\_\_\_\_ many people at the meeting?" "No, very few."
8. We didn't visit the museum. \_\_\_\_\_ enough time.
9. I'm sorry I'm late. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of traffic.
10. Twenty years ago \_\_\_\_\_ many tourists here. Now there are a lot.

**39.3** Write *there + is / are / was / were / has been / have been / will be*.

1. There was a good program on TV last night.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 24 hours in a day.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a party at work last Friday, but I didn't go.
4. "Where can I buy a newspaper?" "\_\_\_\_\_ a drugstore at the end of the block."
5. "Why are the police outside the bank?" "\_\_\_\_\_ a robbery."
6. When we got to the theater, \_\_\_\_\_ a long line outside.
7. When you arrive tomorrow, \_\_\_\_\_ somebody at the airport to meet you.
8. Ten years ago \_\_\_\_\_ 500 children in the school. Now \_\_\_\_\_ more than a thousand.
9. Last week I went back to the town where I was born. It's very different now. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of changes.
10. I think everything will be OK. I don't think \_\_\_\_\_ any problems.