

Prepare for {IELTS}

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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

There is

DIFFERENT TENSES

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EXPLANATION

- We can use **THERE IS** to describe a noun which exists, happens or is found in a particular place.
- It is a very useful structure which can be used in many tenses.
- Successful candidates will almost certainly use this structure in the IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests.
- It is very common to find forms of **THERE IS** in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- We can use **THERE IS** with a wide range of tenses.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there is** and **there are** in the present simple tense. We use **there is** with uncountable nouns and singular nouns:

- **There is** so much **inaccurate information** available online.
- **There is** **an amazing new Indonesian restaurant** just outside the station.
- **There isn't** **much to do** where I live.

We use **there are** with plural nouns:

- **There are** certainly a few **disadvantages** connected with hosting an international sporting event.
- **There aren't** many **museums** which allow visitors to enter free of charge.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there was** and **there were** in the past simple tense. We use **there was** with uncountable nouns and singular nouns:

- **There was** little **evidence** that any work had been done.
- Although **there was** probably less **food** in the past than we have today, the average person had a more nutritious and balanced diet.
- At the beginning of the period, **there was a sharp rise** in the number of bus journeys taken.
- In the past, **there was a belief** that the world was flat.
- **There wasn't any food** in the fridge so we had to order a takeaway.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there was** and **there were** in the past simple tense. We use **there were** with plural nouns:

- In the year 2002, **there were** twice as many **male science graduates** as females completing this university course.
- Although **there were** **commercial airlines** in the 1950s and 1960s, long-haul flights did not become popular until the 1970s.
- **There were** more **admissions to hospital** last year than during any previous twelve-month period.
- **There were** **nine students** in our class.
- **There weren't** **enough lifeboats** on The Titanic.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there has been** and **there have been** in the present perfect tense. We use **there has been** with singular and uncountable nouns:

- Recently, **there has been** a **heated debate** about whether youngsters should have unlimited access to social media.
- Over the past few years, **there has been** a **sharp rise** in the cost of living.
- I want to complain about the fact that **there has been** no **electricity** available for the past two days. I expect something to be done about this immediately.
- **There has been** limited **access** to the internet this morning.
- Unfortunately, **there hasn't been** **much interest** in our exhibition.

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THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there has been** and **there have been** in the present perfect tense. We use **there have been** with plural nouns:

- Over the past few years, **there have been** more **car accidents** than previously, but the number of drivers and passengers killed or seriously hurt has gone down.
- Sadly, **there have** always **been wars**.
- Since time immemorial, **there have been** **discussions** and **arguments** about how to bring up children.
- **There have been** many **floods, droughts and other extreme weather events** over the past couple of years.
- **There haven't been** **many footballers** as brilliant as Ferenc Puskas.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there had been** in the past perfect tense:

- Before The Industrial Revolution, **there had never been a period** of such enormous social and economic change.
- The manager told us that the electricity was not working because **there had been a thunderstorm** the previous day.
- The figures indicate that before 1980 **there had been a sharp fall** in the number of individuals buying their own homes.
- Before newspapers became popular, **there had been no easy way** for information to be passed from one region to another.
- By the end of the period under discussion, **there had been a significant increase** in life expectancy.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there used to be** (used to):

- **There used to be** far more **workers** in the agricultural and industrial sectors, and not as many individuals employed in services.
- **There used to be** **an unwritten rule** that only men were promoted to senior roles within companies. Thankfully, that approach is being challenged now, and more women can be found in the boardroom.
- Although **there used to be** more **poverty**, I think the quality of life was generally higher in the past than it is today.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there didn't use to be (used to)**:

- It is claimed that **there didn't use to be** as much **crime** in cities. However, the statistics available can be interpreted in several ways, and it is not entirely clear that the crime rate has actually risen.
- **There didn't use to be** as much **violence** in movies as there is now.
- Although **there didn't use to be** much **noise** in the street where I live, it has become busier, and I have decided to move to somewhere a bit more tranquil.
- **There didn't use to be** such **a wide gap** between rich people and those experiencing poverty and deprivation.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there will be** and **there will not (won't) be** with the future tense:

- It is thought by some that **there will** soon **be robots** which are practically indistinguishable from humans.
- Many people hope that **there will be more time** for them to read books when they retire.
- By the year 2050, **there won't be** any **polar ice** left.
- Scientists say that unless we tackle climate change quickly, **there won't be anything** we can do to stop the planet from becoming too hot.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use **there is/are going to be** with the **going to future tense**:

- **There is going to be a house-warming party** at my friend's new flat.
Would you like to come?
- **There is going to be a great deal of opposition** to the plan to build a new airport.
- **There are probably going to be** more **refugees** in the future.
- Unfortunately, **there are not going to be** many **opportunities** for us to meet local people on our business trip to Sudan.
- **There is going to have/need to be a significant change** in how we live.
Our carbon-based lifestyles are unsustainable.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use forms of **there is/are** in conditional sentences:

- If **there is** enough **time** at the end of class, teachers should allow the pupils to play a game.
- If **there is** **an increase** in the price of staple foods, **there will be** **rioting** in the streets.
- If **there is** more **flooding** in the future, **there will be** greater **pressure** for politicians to deal with climate change.
- **There is likely to be / There may be / There might be / There could be** widespread **anger** if the government decides to increase taxes further.

THERE IS IN DIFFERENT TENSES

We can use forms of **there is/are** in conditional sentences:

- If credit cards suddenly stopped working, **there would be chaos**.
- If **there was** a bit more **tolerance**, **there would be** less **conflict** and the world would be a better place.
- If **there had been** greater **understanding** of animal rights in the past, **there would/might have been** less **exploitation** of vulnerable species.
- If, in the past, **there had been** more **research** into the effects of cigarettes, **there might now be** fewer **smokers** and fewer **people suffering from lung cancer**.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

There is

**COMBINED WITH OTHER
VERBS**

EXPLANATION

- We can use **THERE IS** to describe a noun which exists, happens or is found in a particular place.
- It is a very useful structure which can be used in many ways.
- Successful candidates will almost certainly use this structure in the IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests.
- It is very common to find forms of **THERE IS** in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- We can combine **THERE IS** with **other verbs**.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH OTHER VERBS

We can use **there is/are with to seem and to appear** to indicate that something looks to be a certain way or to have a certain quality:

- **There appears to be nothing** wrong with the current approach.
- **There appear to be numerous points** in support of this view.
- **There seems to be little** which we can do to persuade football hooligans to behave well at matches.
- **There seem to be several strong arguments** in favour.
- **There doesn't seem/appear to be much chance** of success.
- **There seemed/appeared to be** very little wrong with him.
- **There would seem/appear to be no chance** that governments in rich countries will take steps to end global inequality.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH OTHER VERBS

We can use **there is/are with to tend** when something is generally true:

- **There tends to be a lot of disagreement** on major political issues.
- **There tend to be very few applicants** from ethnic minorities.
Universities are striving to change this by offering scholarships and bursaries to under-represented groups.
- **There don't tend to be as many wild birds** in the countryside as there used to be.
- In the past, **there tended to be less litter** on the streets.
- **There didn't tend to be as much violent crime** in the past.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH OTHER VERBS

We can use **there is/are** with other verbs which indicate existence:

- **There remains a great deal of doubt** about the safety of nuclear plants.
- Around a decade ago, **there emerged a right-wing political party**, which campaigns on issues like immigration.
- Following newspaper reports, **there arose questions** about the safety of many inner-city apartment blocks.
- **There exists a deep mistrust** between politicians and the public.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH OTHER VERBS

We can use **there is/are** with **supposed** when something is agreed or promised but does not seem to be true:

- Although **there is supposed to be an age limit**, it is quite common to see children buying cigarettes.
- **There aren't supposed to be any dogs** in this park.
- **There were supposed to be baths and showers** in every room, but ours only had a small wash-basin.
- **There weren't supposed to be security officers** at the concert, but we saw dozens of them.
- **There wasn't supposed to be an extra charge** for a room with a balcony, but when we got the bill, it included a surcharge.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

There is

**COMBINED WITH SOME-,
ANY- AND NO-**

EXPLANATION

- We can use **THERE IS** to describe a noun which exists, happens or is found in a particular place.
- It is a very useful structure which can be used in many ways.
- Successful candidates will almost certainly use this structure in the IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests.
- It is very common to find forms of **THERE IS** in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- We can combine **THERE IS** with **some-, any- and no-**.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH SOME-, ANY-, NO-

We can use **there is/are** with words connected to **some- any- and no-**:

- **There is something** important which needs to be done.
- **There is** certainly **something** which governments can do to improve living standards.
- **There is** probably still **somewhere** in the world where globalisation has not yet had an impact.
- **There was somebody/someone** working in my office who really annoyed me.
- **If there was somebody/someone** in your family with a serious eating disorder, you would appreciate how devastating the condition can be.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH SOME-, ANY-, NO-

We can use **there is/are** with words connected to **some- any- and no-**:

- If **there is anything** I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- I don't think that **there was anything** we could have done to improve the situation.
- If **there is anyone/anybody** you would like me to contact, let me know.
- I doubt that **there was anyone/anybody** left in the office at that time.
- If **there is anywhere** you would like to visit while you are in Hong Kong, tell me and I will organise it.
- I don't think **there is anywhere** worth visiting in the city.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH SOME-, ANY-, NO-

We can use **there is/are** with words connected to **some- any- and no-**:

- **There is nothing** worse than an injection.
- **There is nothing** better than a hot shower.
- I really hate Sundays. **There is nothing** interesting to do.
- I honestly believe that **there is nothing** which can be done to eradicate the disease.
- **There has been nothing** worth seeing at the cinema for months.
- **There will be nothing** we can do to save the planet unless we start taking action immediately.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH SOME-, ANY-, NO-

We can use **there is/are** with words connected to **some- any- and no-**:

- **There is nobody/no-one (who)** I would rather work with than you.
- **There is nobody/no-one** living in our house at the moment, so you could definitely stay there for a couple of weeks.
- Unfortunately, **there was nobody/no-one** in the building who knew how the heating system worked.
- The holiday was a bit boring. **There was nowhere** interesting to go.
- **There is nowhere** in the whole world I would rather be than here.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

There is

COMBINED WITH MODALS

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EXPLANATION

- We can use **THERE IS** to describe a noun which exists, happens or is found in a particular place.
- It is a very useful structure which can be used in many ways.
- Successful candidates will almost certainly use this structure in the IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests.
- It is very common to find forms of **THERE IS** in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- We can combine **THERE IS** with **MODAL VERBS**.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH MODALS

We can use **there is/are** with present tense modals:

- **There might/may/could be extremely good reasons** why some individuals cannot avoid being overweight.
- **There must be something** which can be done to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the refugees.
- **There can't/cannot be anything** wrong with you.
- **There ought to be a law** which prohibits all individuals from carrying a knife.
- **There should be counsellors** in every school to help children who need support.
- **There shouldn't be so much rubbish** on television.

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THERE IS COMBINED WITH MODALS

We can use **there is/are** with present tense modals:

- **There need to be massive changes** to the way we live.
- **There needs to be a complete re-think** about how we educate our children.
- **There have to be regular inspections** of every single nuclear power plant in the world.
- **There has to be a completely new approach** to the way food is grown.
- **There doesn't have to be a vase of flowers** on every single table.
- **There doesn't need to be a lot of spice** in that dish.
- **There don't have/need to be so many sweets** in that dish.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH MODALS

We can use **there is/are** with past tense modals:

- **There must have been a good reason** why the number of migrants rose so dramatically in the 1990s. It is likely that this change came about as a result of wars and armed conflicts.
- **There might/may have been several causes** of the economic downturn, including a reduction in government spending and a fall in the value of exports.
- **There could have been more effort** on the part of the government.
- **There can't/couldn't have been much wrong** with that food. It has all been eaten.

THERE IS COMBINED WITH MODALS

We can use **there is/are** with past tense modals:

- Scientists realized how damaging cigarettes were more than five decades ago. In my opinion, **there should have been more warnings** in the media at that time, and attempts should have been made to reduce the number of smokers.
- **There ought to have been more research** in the past on the dangers of prolonged smartphone use.
- **There shouldn't have been a book** on the table.
- **There didn't ought to have been a dog** in the classroom.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

There is

OTHER FUNCTIONS

Prepare for {IELTS}

EXPLANATION

- We can use **THERE IS** to describe a noun which exists, happens or is found in a particular place.
- It is a very useful structure which can be used in many ways.
- Successful candidates will almost certainly use this structure in the IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests.
- It is very common to find forms of **THERE IS** in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- We can use **THERE IS** in phrases connected to **possibility/certainty, prediction, reason, beliefs** and **description**.

THERE IS OTHER USES

We can use **there is/are** in phrases connected to possibility and certainty:

- **There is no/little doubt** that the issue of capital punishment divides opinion.
- **There is no/little chance** that these measures will prove effective.
- **There is a great deal of evidence** that children who play team-sports have better social skills.
- **There is the genuine/distinct possibility** that humans will one day live on the moon.

THERE IS OTHER USES

We can use **there is/are** to make predictions:

- **There is likely to be a rise** in the price of oil and gas as these natural resources become scarce.
- In the future, **there are unlikely to be as many banks** on our streets. Thanks to online banking, the need for branches is diminishing sharply.
- **There is expected to be a change in our diets** as people become aware of the importance of healthy food.
- **There are anticipated to be even more migrants** in the coming years.

THERE IS OTHER USES

We can use **there is/are (there being)** to introduce a reason for something:

- **There being no reason** to stay in the countryside, many migrate to cities. (= **Because there is no reason...**)
- **There being so little time** left for us to act, something must be done immediately. (= **Because there is so little time left...**)
- **There being no improvement** in the general health of the public, it might be time to introduce compulsory fitness classes for all adults. (= **Because there is no improvement...**)
- **There being a cut in government funding**, museums have decided to introduce admission charges. (= **Because there has been a cut...**)

THERE IS OTHER USES

We can use **there is/are** to indicate what many people believe/say or what experts believe/say about current situations:

- **There are said to be thousands of migrants** starving in the region. (= It is said that there are thousands of migrants...)
- **There are believed to be millions of undocumented species** in the rain forest. (= It is believed that there are millions...)
- **There are thought to be far more millionaires** now than a decade ago. (= It is thought that there are far more millionaires now...)
- **There is thought to be little chance** of a positive outcome.
- **There is understood to be a connection** between drug use and mental illness.

THERE IS OTHER USES

We can use **there is/are** to indicate what many people believe/say or what experts believe/say about past situations:

- **There are said to have been more than ten million civilians** killed during the war. (= It is said that there were...)
- **There are believed to have been more than a hundred passengers** on the boat which sank. (= It is believed that there were...)
- **There are thought to have been several reasons** for the crash. (= It is thought that there were...)
- **There are understood to have been a number of reasons** for the decision. (= It is understood that there were...)

THERE IS OTHER USES

We can use **there is/are** to describe an action which we can see:

- **There are several people sitting** on the bench in that picture.
- **There are** nearly always **people standing** and **smoking** at the bus stop. I hate it!
- When I reached my seat, **there was a man** already **sitting** there.
- **There were several people taking** photos of the incident on their phones.
- **There might/will be quite a few students doing** the same exam as you.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences:

1. There **w**_____ quite a few people at the party who I didn't recognise.
2. There **i**_____ somebody working in my office who really annoys me.
3. There **w**_____ a tropical storm so our plane couldn't take off.
4. There **w**_____ anybody in the office so I had to wait.
5. There **w**_____ hardly any passengers on the flight.
6. Apparently, there **w**_____ **b**_____ a sharp rise in oil prices next year.
7. There are **g**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ a lot of people at the concert. If you want a good seat you should get there early.

ANSWERS

1. There **were** quite a few people at the party who I didn't recognise.
2. There **is** somebody working in my office who really annoys me.
3. There **was** a tropical storm so our plane couldn't take off.
4. There **wasn't** anybody in the office so I had to wait.
5. There **were** hardly any passengers on the flight
6. Apparently, there **will be** a sharp rise in oil prices next year.
7. There are **going to be** a lot of people at the concert. If you want a good seat you should get there early.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences:

1. There **u**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ far fewer cars on the roads.
2. There **d**_____ **u**_____ **t**_____ be so much violence in the media.
3. If there **w**_____ more police officers on the streets, there **w**_____ be fewer crimes.
4. In recent years, there **h**_____ **b**_____ an unprecedented rise in global temperatures.
5. There **h**_____ **b**_____ several unsuccessful attempts to climb the mountain this year.
6. By the end of the period under discussion, there **h**_____ **b**_____ a significant rise in house prices

ANSWERS

1. There **used to be** far fewer cars on the roads.
2. There **didn't use to** be so much violence in the media.
3. If there **were** more police officers on the streets, there **would** be fewer crimes.
4. In recent years, there **has been** an unprecedented rise in global temperatures.
5. There **have been** several unsuccessful attempts to climb the mountain this year.
6. By the end of the period under discussion, there **had been** a significant rise in house prices

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences:

1. There **a**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ nothing we can do.
2. There **s**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ quite a few possible options.
3. There **t**_____ to be a lot of disagreement on this issue.
4. There **r**_____ a great deal of doubt about the safety of nuclear power.
5. There is **s**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ a beautiful cathedral in the city, but I haven't found it yet
6. There **w**_____ **s**_____ to be a swimming pool at our hotel, but we couldn't find it anywhere!

ANSWERS

1. There **appears to be** nothing we can do.
2. There **seem to be** quite a few possible options.
3. There **tends** to be a lot of disagreement on this issue.
4. There **remains** a great deal of doubt about the safety of nuclear power.
5. There is **supposed/said to be** a beautiful cathedral in the city, but I haven't found it yet
6. There **was supposed** to be a swimming pool at our hotel, but we couldn't find it anywhere!

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences:

1. If there i_____ a_____ I can do to help, please don't hesitate to contact me.
2. There i_____ n_____ worse than toothache.
3. There is n_____ I would rather spend time with than you.
4. There is s_____ I have been meaning to tell you for a few weeks.
5. If there is a_____ in the office when you arrive, please give them this letter.
6. I hate Sundays. There is n_____ to do and n_____ to go.

ANSWERS

1. If there is **anything** I can do to help, please don't hesitate to contact me.
2. There is **nothing** worse than toothache.
3. There is **nobody/no-one** I would rather spend time with than you.
4. There is **something** I have been meaning to tell you for a few weeks.
5. If there is **anybody** in the office when you arrive, please give them this letter.
6. I hate Sundays. There is **nothing** to do and **nowhere** to go.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences:

1. There **m_____ b_____** something we can do to make the situation better.
2. There **s_____ b_____** a law which prohibits smoking in all public places.
3. There **h_____ t_____ b_____** a completely new approach to education. The current policy simply isn't working.
4. I don't know why the car crashed. There **m_____ h_____ b_____** something wrong with the brakes or the steering.
5. Why did you throw that bottle out of the window? There **m_____ h_____ b_____** somebody standing on the pavement outside. You could have killed them!
6. Residents complain that there **s_____ h_____ b_____** a warning about the volcanic eruption. The authorities did not tell them to evacuate their houses until it was too late.

ANSWERS

1. There **must/might/may be** something we can do to make the situation better.
2. There **should be** a law which prohibits smoking in all public places.
3. There **has to be** a completely new approach to education. The current policy simply isn't working.
4. I don't know why the car crashed. There **must/might/may have been** something wrong with the brakes or the steering.
5. Why did you throw that bottle out of the window? There **might/may have been** somebody standing on the pavement outside. You could have killed them!
6. Residents complain that there **should have been** a warning about the volcanic eruption. The authorities did not tell them to evacuate their houses until it was too late.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences:

1. There **i**_____ the distinct possibility that humans will one day live on other planets.
2. There **i**_____ **l**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ a rise in food prices over the next few months.
3. There **b**_____ no reason to stay in the countryside, many youngsters migrate to the city.
4. There **a**_____ **s**_____ **t**_____ **b**_____ thousands of homeless people in the city.
5. There **a**_____ **th**_____ **t**_____ **h**_____ **b**_____ several reasons for the crash.

ANSWERS

1. There **is** the distinct possibility that humans will one day live on other planets.
2. There **is likely to be** a rise in food prices over the next few months.
3. There **being** no reason to stay in the countryside, many youngsters migrate to the city.
4. There **are said to be** thousands of homeless people in the city.
5. There **are thought to have been** several reasons for the crash.