

# Prepare for {IELTS}

## Video Lessons





# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

There is  
**DIFFERENT TENSES**

# 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.**

# **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**

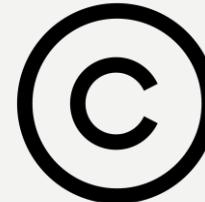
**We can use forms of there is/are in conditional sentences:**

- 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 **increases** 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**

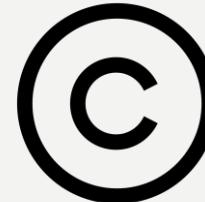
**We can use there is/are with other verbs which indicate existence:**

- **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-**

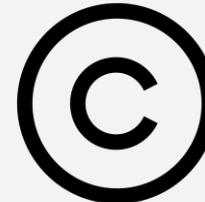
**We can use there is/are with words connected to some- any- and no-:**

- 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

# 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.**

# **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**

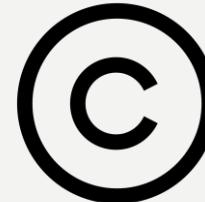
**We can use there is/are with past tense modals:**

- **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**

# 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**

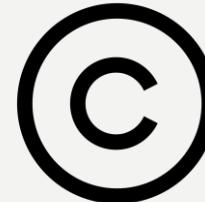
**We can use there is/are to indicate what many people believe/say or what experts believe/say about past situations:**

- **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.