

English A1 · there is and there are

Beginner English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The existence worker

To say something exists, English sends there to the front: There is a book on the table.

One or many

What exists	Form	Example
one thing	there is / there's	There is a cat on the roof.
many things	there are	There are two cats on the roof.
uncountable stuff	there is	There is some water in the bottle.

Use the evidence

Speaking says there's constantly; writing has no short form there're.

Your turn: count the cats

Your turn

_____ some water in the bottle.

- A. There is
- B. There are
- C. It is
- D. They are

No and not any

not any — the everyday default

There isn't any milk.

There aren't any students here.

no — short and strong

There is no milk.

There are no students here.

The flip returns

- 1 **Statement** There is a bank near here.
- 2 **Flip the verb** Is there a bank near here?
- 3 **Short answer** Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.

Decision

The same flip as topic 1 — and the short answer keeps there.

Your turn: ask about eggs

Your turn

There are eggs in the fridge. Make it a question.

- A. Are there eggs in the fridge?
- B. There are eggs in the fridge?
- C. Do there are eggs in the fridge?
- D. Is there eggs in the fridge?

The order flips

Chinese order

Place first, then the thing.

English order

There is a book on the table.

The thing first, the place last.

Your turn: existence or description

Your turn

Which announces that a party exists tonight?

- A. It is a party tonight.
- B. There is a party tonight.
- C. The night has a party.
- D. Have a party tonight.

Say it aloud

Describe the classroom: There are
thirty students and one tired teacher.



Praise your area: There is a good noodle shop near my home.



Lie confidently: There aren't any bad ones.



Ask and answer: Is there a gym near here?
— No, there isn't. The noodles won.

Check yourself

- One thing: there is; many things: there are; water counts as one.
- Negative: there isn't any milk, or there is no milk.
- Question: Is there a bank near here? — Yes, there is, keeping there.
- — There is a book on the table: the order flips.