

There is / there are, and plural nouns

Choosing is or are after there depending on the noun that follows, and forming plural nouns correctly.

Fill each gap with one of the words below it. Answers and the rule for every sentence are on the next page.

1. There _____ a new café on the corner of the street.

a is b are c isn't d aren't

2. There _____ some milk in the fridge if you want a drink.

a are b is c isn't d aren't

3. There _____ three chairs around the table.

a is b isn't c are d aren't

4. There _____ a lot of traffic on the roads this morning.

a are b isn't c aren't d is

5. There _____ any biscuits left in the tin.

a aren't b is c are d isn't

6. There _____ any bread in the kitchen.

a are b isn't c is d aren't

7. _____ a bank near the station?

a Is it b Are they c Is there d Are there

8. _____ any good restaurants in this town?

a Are they b Is it c Is there d Are there

9. There _____ a chair and two tables in the room.

a is b are c isn't d aren't

10. There are three _____ waiting outside the doctor's office.

a persons b people c person d peoples

11. There are two _____ playing in the park.

a child **b** childs **c** children **d** childrens

12. There are several _____ working in this office.

a woman **b** womans **c** womens **d** women

Answer key

1. There **is** a new café on the corner of the street.

We use there is with one thing, like a café.

2. There **is** some milk in the fridge if you want a drink.

We use there is with things like milk that we do not count one by one.

3. There **are** three chairs around the table.

We use there are with more than one thing, like three chairs.

4. There **is** a lot of traffic on the roads this morning.

Traffic is not something we count one by one, so we use there is.

5. There **aren't** any biscuits left in the tin.

Biscuits is a plural word, so the negative form is there aren't.

6. There **isn't** any bread in the kitchen.

Bread is not something we count one by one, so the negative form is there isn't.

7. **Is there** a bank near the station?

Bank is one thing, so the question starts with Is there.

8. **Are there** any good restaurants in this town?

Restaurants is plural, so the question starts with Are there.

9. There **is** a chair and two tables in the room.

When a list starts with one thing, like a chair, we say there is.

10. There are three **people** waiting outside the doctor's office.

The plural of person is people, not persons.

11. There are two **children** playing in the park.

The plural of child is children, not childs.

12. There are several **women** working in this office.

The plural of woman is women, not womans.