

THERE WAS/THERE WERE

When we want to say that something existed or happened we use the past tense of **There Be** (there was there were). We use there was with singular and non-countable nouns. We use there were with plural or countable nouns.

There was (singular and non - countable nouns)

There were (plural and countable nouns)

Negative form:

there was + not = there wasn't

there were + not = there weren't

Examples:

There **was** a nice party last semester.

There **were** a lot of people in the stadium last night.

Structure:

THERE WAS/WERE + COMPLEMENTIZER + EXPRESSION OF PAST TIME

Examples:

Statement: There **was** a parade this morning.
Question: Was there a parade this morning?
Affirmative answer: Yes, there was a parade this morning.
Negative answer: No, there wasn't a parade this morning.

Statement: There **were** many students in my class tonight.
Question: Were there many students in your class tonight?
Affirmative answer: Yes, there were many students in my class tonight.
Negative answer: No, there weren't any students in my class tonight.

Statement: There **were** many at the party last night.
Question: Were there many girls at the party last night?
Affirmative answer: Yes, there were many girls at the party last night.
Negative answer: No, there weren't many girls at the party last night.

Statement: There **was** a lot of noise in the back yard yesterday.
Question: Was there a lot of noise in the back yard yesterday?
Affirmative answer: Yes, there was a lot of noise in the back yard yesterday.
Negative answer: No, there wasn't a lot of noise in the back yard yesterday.

Statement: There **were** many students in my class tonight.
Question: Were there many students in your class tonight?
Affirmative answer: Yes, there were many students in my class tonight.
Negative answer: No, there weren't any students in my class tonight.

CLAUSES WITH “WHO” AND “THAT”

In English when we refer to people we use “Who” and when we refer to things we use “That” to join two ideas.

Examples:

That is the man.

The man came yesterday.

That is the man **who** came yesterday.

This is the car.

My father bought last summer.

This is the car **that** my father bought last summer.

But when we have personal pronouns in the subject we use “that” instead of “**who**”.

He is the boy.

The boy won the contest.

He is the boy **that** won the contest.

She is the doctor.

She operated on my friend.

She is the doctor **that** operated on my friend



Fill in the blanks with the correct form of **There Be**: There was or There were. Check if the noun is countable or non-countable. Follow the examples:

----- a nice concert last summer.

There was a nice concert last summer.

1. _____ liquor at the party.
2. _____ many girls at the beach.
3. _____ too much pollution in the city last year.
4. _____ some apples in the refrigerator this morning.
5. _____ plenty of time, so everybody finished the exam.
6. _____ five police officer outside the house when I came.
7. _____ one student in the class yesterday.
8. _____ a few minutes left, so we went out for a walk.
9. _____ too many people on the bus, so we waited for the next one.
10. _____ only one book on the desk.
11. _____ a lot of smoke in the room. I was getting asphyxiated.
12. _____ many good bands at the festival last year.
13. _____ a few good movies last year.
14. _____ a lot of energy at the concert.
15. _____ a few dollars left in my bank account.
16. _____ a strange noise on the roof last night.
17. _____ thousands of birds in this island a long time ago.
18. _____ ice covering the earth during the ice age.
19. _____ many species that became extinct during the ice age.
20. _____ only one winning lottery ticket this week.



Use “Who” or “What” to join the two sentences and form one clause. Follow the example:

Here is the car.

The car was involved in a traffic accident.

Here is the car **that** was involved in a traffic accident.

1. That is the man.

The man arrived late for the meeting.

2. This is the car.

The car was in an accident.

3. That is the woman.

The woman won the dancing contest.

4. There is the student.

The student is going to take my place.

5. That is the plane.

The plane had an emergency.

6. Those are the students.

The students contributed with the campaign.

7. Those are the teachers.

The teachers came from Europe.

8. This is the computer.

The computer cost a lot of money.

9. That is the hospital.

The hospital is going to be closed down soon.

10. Those are the students.

The students came to study Spanish in Ecuador.
