

Existential Sentence



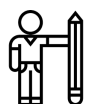
**Target Learner: Upper intermediate
Secondary Students**



Class Duration: 120mins



**Corpus Used: COCA, BNC, Lextutor (2K-
Graded, Disney)**



Lesson Designer: Li Ting, Gong Zhen



Lesson Objectives:

1. Grasp the meaning of existential sentences;
2. Understand the general subject-verb rule in existential sentences;
3. Recognize different types of extension of existential sentences;
4. Be aware of common mistake 'there have' and some existential verbs with the help of corpora
5. Use existential sentence to indicate existence and introduce a topic in output activity (oral and written tasks)

A. Watch the video and fill in the blanks.



<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/grammar/beginner-grammar/there-there-are-it>

Mum: Hi, Oliver!

Oliver: Hi, Mum. Are you having a good time? Where are you now?

Mum: Can't you remember? You have to guess then! I'll give you some clues! It's warm and sunny and it's the city's 'fiesta' week. (1) There's so much (events) happening.

Oliver: Oh yeah, like what?

Mum: Well, when I arrived, (2) there were fire-breathing dragons in the streets.

Oliver: Really?

Mum: Yeah, totally crazy. Hey, I'll send you a photo.

Oliver: Wow, that looks a bit dangerous! Were there any accidents?

Mum: No, it seems to be quite normal here! They're used to it. Now (3) there are giants walking

B. Summarize the meaning of 'there' by looking at the tips.



(1) There's so much (events) happening=

So much (events) is happening.

(2) There were fire-breathing dragons in the streets =

Fire-breathing dragons were in the streets.

(3) There are giants walking down the street. =

Giants are walking down the street.

'there' is a dummy pronoun and it carries no meaning in existential ('there be') sentences. It is not referring to a place but is introducing a topic or something existent.

What can you find from the table?

If the nearest noun phrase is singular, the verb is singular; if the nearest phrase is plural, the verb is plural.

Agreement on the verb in 'there be' clauses is determined by the number of the nearest noun phrase.

D. Different types of extension of existential sentences.

(a) Read the lines below. Try to paraphrase following sentences and circle out correct part of speech of the underlined parts. The first one has been done for you as an example.

(Cling: present-participial clause Clen: past-participial clause)

1. There are three people <u>on the coach</u> . (<u>prepositional phrase</u> , adjective, cling, clen) Three people are on the coach.
2. There are many stars <u>in the sky</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)
3. There are lots of jobs <u>available</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)
4. There will be two guys <u>sitting outside your house in a Mondeo</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)
5. There are many mysteries <u>hidden in other caves</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)

6. At Wolverhampton railway station there was a poster <u>advertising the local paper</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)
7. There are some unpleasant things <u>going on</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)
8. There was a foot <u>in a grey sock</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)
9. There were ladies <u>present</u> . (prepositional phrase, adjective, cling, clen)

Can you find the pattern of above existential sentences?

<p>The paraphrased sentences:</p> <p><u>Three people are on the coach.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ↓ ↓ ↓ NP1 VP PP </p> <p>Existential sentence:</p> <p><u>There are three people on the coach.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ NP _ _ _ </p>	<p>The pattern of an existential sentence:</p> <p>there + _____ + _____ + adjective/ _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p> How many verb phrases can you find in an existential sentence?</p>
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E. Let's check your understanding.

If the sentence is correct, put tick (✓) in the bracket; If it is wrong, put cross (X) in the bracket and provide the correct sentence. The first one has been done for you as an example.

There will be 4,000 fans travel to Huddersfield. (X) There will be 4,000 fans travelling to Huddersfield. _____
There have been some delays getting through to our customer service teams. () _____
There are many details hiding from me. () _____
There are a barbecue and a dinner in a local restaurant. ()

At such places as colonial Williamsburg there are shops sell pineapple. ()

And this time there was a woman sit by the fire. ()

There was no one come in when Joe and the others left. ()

There are so many good English books too. ()

There was a single shot and Ashton fell. ()

There will be 1,000 students looking for work as lifeguards. ()

There were a telephone and two chairs in the hall, and I sat down there. ()



F. Little researcher.

(a) Look at the following sentences written by your classmates. Do a search and discuss with your partner whether they are correct.

<https://www.lexutor.ca/conc/eng/>

There have many people in Hong Kong. (F)

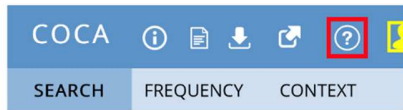
There have many books on the table. (F)

that has no end. THERE HAVE been many answers given to these questions, and some o
 th season today, THERE HAVE been all manner of changes involving free agent moveme
 d. Very quietly. THERE HAVE been no noisy tears, or anything of that kind.' I am v
 's West Indians, THERE HAVE been repeated calls for the Mayor's invitation to be r
 ained staff, and THERE HAVE been numerous complaints about inadequate care. Last m
 said Beverley. ' THERE HAVE been some nasty accidents in these hills. A man was ki
 ittle while ago. THERE HAVE been a couple of explosions down the hill since I stop
 ople, maybe, but THERE HAVE always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort Farm, and we w
 oney. No matter. THERE HAVE always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort Farm. Well, le
 in good health. THERE HAVE always been-' 'in know, in know,' interrupted Flora. '
 e of you. Never! THERE HAVE always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort. You must all
 in shall go mad! THERE HAVE always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort! in saw someth
 ou mun never go! THERE HAVE always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort. in shall go m
 he mud together. THERE HAVE always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort, and now there
 ast three months THERE HAVE been no fewer than twenty-three long-distance calls to
 ind telling you, THERE HAVE been moments in the last twenty-four hours when I've g
 back that stuck. THERE HAVE been many so-called 'spring revivals' in recent years
 believe you, but THERE HAVE been too many lies, and too many secrets. And I haven'

(b) Work with your partners and do a search to see what verbs can follow the subject 'There' in an existential clause. Follow the steps given in the next page to get concordance lines and analyze each sentence. (Some are not existential sentences) Then complete the table.
<https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>

existential verb	example

Step 1:



List Chart **Collocates** Compare KWIC

there Word/phrase [POS]
 _vv0* Collocates verb.BASE
 + 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 +
 Find collocates Reset Help

Sections Virtual Sort/Limit Options

Step 2:



SEE CONTEXT: CLICK ON WORD [HELP...]

	CONTEXT	FREQ	
1	SEEM	360	
2	REMAIN	221	
3	APPEAR	219	
4	EXIST	216	
5	SAY	203	
6	LIVE	110	
7	NEED	103	

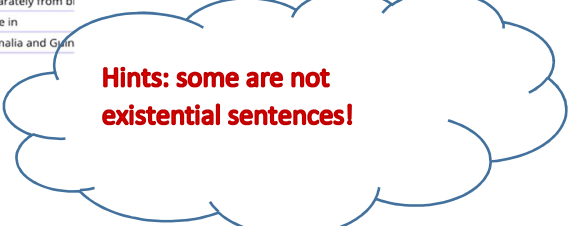
Step 3: Select the frequently used words (the top 5) and click the button 'context'

Step 4: Read the sentences carefully and analyze the sentences.

garbage bag, like he's all bones underneath. **There seem** to be more and more of these young people lately, though one? She says: Oh yes. In fact **there exist** an infinite number of parallel universes in a constantly expanding multiverse for a similarly radical witness on warfare. Even though **there remain** compelling reasons to fight wars, just as it is to genetic predisposition. They may be right. " **There seem** to be factors driving obesity that are purely genetic. It's fifth on the way in 2018. While the gates **there remain** locked to you and me, the Cascades course at the Omnia concludes that it is a tactical mistake, especially when **there appear** to be five justices on the Supreme Court. In 1987 there were 1.4 million Christians in Iraq. **There remain** today 300,000 perhaps fewer. In a millennium-long depression, and pain. Research is mounting, but **there remain** holes in the evidence so large, you could drive a truck through them. Do that if we're just sitting there paralyzed because **there seem** to be so many choices? We end up feeling guilty, but so thin in others that at first sight **there seem** to be gaps. Some of these gaps come from resonances between the incident. According to the police reports, **there appear** to have been at least two fights involving the participants, believing they lack fundamental computer knowledge and training. **There appear** to be dozens of hacker schools contacted for this story didn't respond. Flooding dangers: **there remain** high. Participation in the NFIP is deterring taking part in the study at Fort Stewart. Yet **there remain** serious reservations among many in the military about the 31), made quite a bit of sense. **There appear** to be bicyclists who ride recklessly as well as drivers intent on rural professional advisers of investment company Bernard Madoff. Rus admits **there remain** no easy answers of how Egyptian military. # Ramifications of U.S. Aid Suspension # **There appear** to be three main consequences to the negotiations. You know, you heard David Plouffe right **there say** that is a cave by House Republicans. I mean, like Congressman? You know, you saw the mayor right **there say**. It was absolutely justified. REP-BENNIE-THOMPSON: You saw the President right out of the box **there say**, we are in better position now than we were two weeks ago. Nothing to suggest that they are doing this. And **there seem** to be a lot of safeguards to prevent them from doing it. And yet, somehow or another, **there seem** to be all these pressures, Dee Dee, on the leaders on linking the Bridgeport area to New York City. Officials **there say** that tracks could be closed for weeks, and, you know, working for a government research agency in Singapore. Police **there say** he likely committed suicide. His parents had some interesting comments. (BEGIN-VIDEO-CLIP) WILLIAM-JEFFERSON-# Yes, **there remain** racial inequalities, quietly, very quietly, some of the dealers **there say** that, yes, there **seem** to - you know, extending background checks, making those who've been reported on the British media - is that **there appear** to have been heavy losses of life as the result of the last weekend. It was -- the people who were **there say** it was a very somber retreat. And they agreed to back track. About 2 percent of all applications are flagged because **there appear** to be similar biometrics like fingerprints in the city, always in suchlike conditions, and that **there seem** to be more of them than ever! No amount of dry cleaning who begin in you, but who never end. **There exist** people who perpetuate themselves in you. Their voices resound and quickly. One of the other two still standing **there say** straight faced: it is impossible to translate power, and despite these shifts in political dynamics and activist attention, **there remain** important reasons for the U.S. to conclude, " The Cuban press does not believe that **there exist** multiple truths, it believes in only one Truth. It's any real measure, almost extinct. # Almost. **There remain** a few places. Foremost is a region known as Arnhem social consciousness the demonstrators represent. # PANKAJ MISHRA: **There seem** to be two common descriptions dovetailed with Private Manning's confession in February, but **there remain** a few factual disputes. Among the youth, the issue is rooted in low expectations. **There appear** to be two extremes: just getting by or being the rich. Have to vote on any new bills, and Democrats **there say** they won't consider border security separately from border. The end of 'celebrity' Those who have been **there say** that if Judd makes it to Capitol Hill, she'll be in the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Although **there remain** stubborn outliers to the trend, like Somalia and Guinea

RE CONTEXT

that breaking news coming into us from Pakistan. Police **there say** all three attackers who stormed the Agriculture case-by-case decisions that the officers have to make, but **there seem** to be very different approaches the department a crime, you can pursue it. Now, **there seem** to be three fronts here, you have the obstruction front, and accept it? Do you think that the Intel Agencies **there say**, I'm sorry to tell you this sir, but it was # We are scientists, there must be reasons. **There exist** reasons behind reasons. The reasons extend down to complex study for decades, though it turns out that **there remain** some stones still to be turned. Researchers in places such as Kansas and Georgia. # Officials **there remain** opposed, according to representatives for the state, can cause very unusual behavior. # First, **there appear** new optical axes (up to ten axes in an orthorhombic crystal). # FOX-IT also said in its blog post that " **there appear** to be multiple infection vectors, " but the post didn't elaborate features can handle a wide variety of driving conditions, **there remain** plenty of " corner cases, " or complicated firearms to the Howard County sheriff's office. Officials **there say** the paperwork was forwarded to Baltimore County 25 miles northeast of St. Louis. The College Republicans **there say** they are " dedicated to promoting and advocating basis.107 For example, Nevada will appoint an attorney when **there exist** " such legal and factual complexities the internal politics of West Virginia made the township experiment **there seem** more like a continuation of the technology to achieve the goal. While OMB may decide **there remain** sound reasons for excluding certain transactions happen to be right that originalism is our law.8 Lest **there remain** any doubt about these ambitions, Baude and constitutional middle ground. " 300 In other words, **there seem** to have been genuinely " legal " arguments on political consequences of a weak state and ambiguous sovereignty.3 That **there seem** to be " about 120 sides " of the contraband doctrine is still relatively undeveloped, and **there remain** unanswered questions that courts view to the construction or contestation of Mexican identity. While **there exist** parallels and similarities with concurrent basis.107 For example, Nevada will appoint an attorney when **there exist** " such legal and factual complexities correlate with them, we may still be asked if **there exist** any positive reasons in favor of the opposite idealist stance is no reason why an idealist should not accept that **there exist** other minds. Idealism is not solipsism. It is a stance to say, the idealist may readily accept that **there exist** other minds with inner lives just like his own. Hopeful differences between the sexes in juveniles. In addition, **there exist** few osteological collections, either anatomical analysis. In contrast to the statistical atlas approach, **there exist** several automated methods that place geometries have not been investigated in detail by us, **there appear** to be no published records of lichens from the Eagle in detecting lung cancer at early stages, even though **there exist** clinical trials of cytologic analysis of blood, sperm for the early detection of lung cancer. However, **there exist** many sources of uncertainty related to the breath he did, he wasn't, like, sitting **there say**, but she said, no, ah, ah, I have And he said, " What is that banner over **there say**? " And he goes, " It's just another expletive deleted to their note; 66 percent of the white voters **there say** that they are unfavorable towards her. JUDY-WOODRUFF: the delegates cast their votes for Donald Trump here? **There seem** to be some upset members of the Utah del

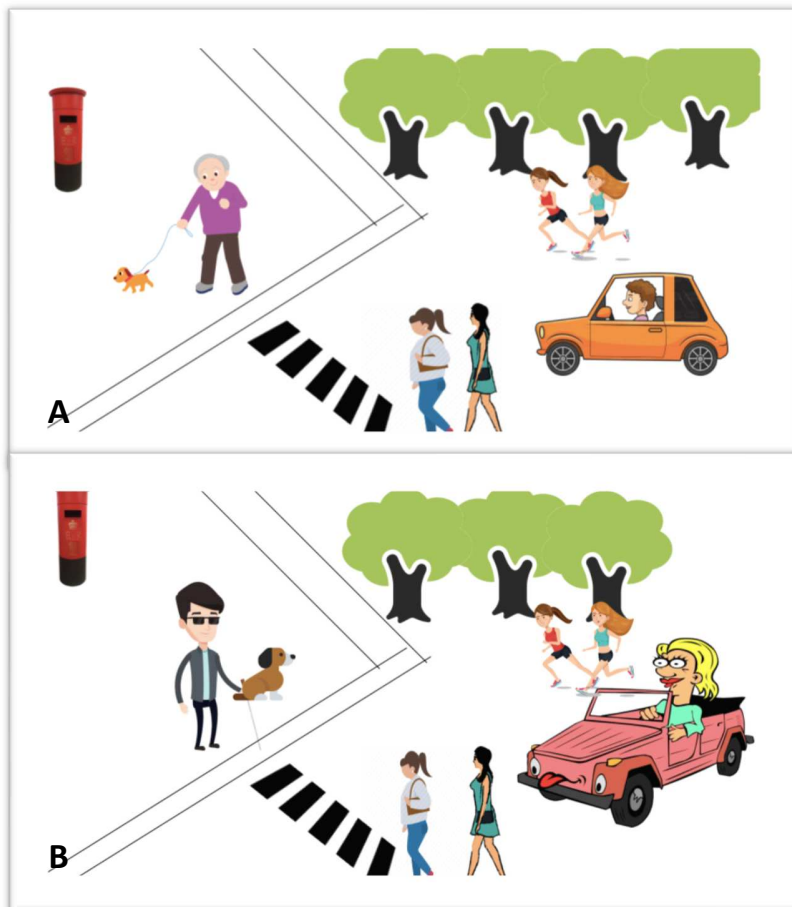


G. Who is the spy

- Form a group of four;
- 3 students will receive the same picture, 1 (spy) will get a similar picture with a slight difference;
- students have to take turns to describe the picture using one existential sentence;
- they need to listen to others' description carefully so that they will not describe the same items in the picture. After 4 students finish their description, they need to decide which one is the spy. (Students can play it 2-3 rounds with different sets of pictures.)



Take turns to describe the picture you have using one existential sentence ('there be' sentence). You should listen to others' description carefully and don't repeat what others have said, after everyone's description, find out the spy in your group.





H. Design your dream school. (Homework)

1. Imagine and write a short passage about your dream school.
2. Write down what you think the school would be like, what kind of infrastructure you would like to install in the school and provide reasons.
3. Try to use the sentence structures we learn today.
4. You can support your writing with drawings.

Knowledge Top-up Station



Sentence examples:

There is a four-story library which is connected to every teaching building in the school, so it is convenient for teachers and students to get to library.

There exists a plant room where we can grow and observe the plant.

There is a large swimming pool lying in southern part of the school, students are free to swim there whenever they want.

School buildings vocabulary:



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. office | 8. language lab | 15. bleachers | 21. lunchroom monitor |
| 2. nurse's office | 9. chemistry lab | 16. track | 22. cafeteria worker |
| 3. guidance office | 10. teachers' lounge | 17. principal | 23. driver's ed instructor |
| 4. cafeteria | 11. gym/gymnasium | 18. assistant principal | 24. teacher |
| 5. principal's office | 12. locker room | 19. (school) nurse | 25. coach |
| 6. classroom | 13. auditorium | 20. guidance counselor | 26. custodian |
| 7. locker | 14. field | | |

Source: <https://www.easypacelearning.com/all-lessons/learning-english-level-1/1428-school-vocabulary-with-pictures-english-lesson>