

Grade 2 • Lesson 21: Agreement with "There"**EXISTENTIAL SUBJECT CONCORD****Language Rule: Finding the Real Subject**

In sentences starting with "There", the real subject comes after the verb.

Look at the words following the blank to decide if the subject is one or more than one!

A CHOOSING THE CORRECT VERB

Fill each blank with one of these words: **are**, **has**, **is**, **have**, **were**, or **was**:

Word Bank: are • has • is • have • were • was

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. There _____ a star in the sky. | 6. There _____ the happy children. |
| 2. There _____ flowers in the garden. | 7. There _____ grass in the field. |
| 3. There _____ apples on the tree last summer. | 8. There _____ an orange in the box. |
| 4. There _____ been no one here. | 9. There _____ ships on the water. |
| 5. There _____ been many stormy days. | |

B SENTENCE WRITING

Write a complete statement beginning with **There is** or **There are** about something you see today:

My sentence: _____

Lesson 21: Teacher Guide & Master Solutions

EXISTENTIAL CONCORD • EXPLETIVE "THERE" SYNTAX

The Expletive "There" Construction: In English, "There" is an expletive (dummy pronoun). It has no number of its own. The grammatical number of the verb is determined by the true subject that follows. Young children intuitively look before the verb for the subject; this lesson trains them to *scan ahead* past the verb to locate the true subject and time cues.

- Section A: Master Fill-in-the-Blank Solutions:**
- 1. There **is** (or **was**) a star in the sky. [Subject: singular count noun a star].
 - 2. There **are** (or **were**) flowers in the garden. [Subject: plural count noun flowers].
 - 3. There **were** apples on the tree last summer. [Past time cue last summer + plural apples requires past plural were].
 - 4. There **has** been no one here. [Subject: singular indefinite pronoun no one requires singular auxiliary has].
 - 5. There **have** been many stormy days. [Subject: plural count noun many stormy days requires plural auxiliary have].
 - 6. There **are** (or **were**) the happy children. [Subject: plural count noun the happy children].
 - 7. There **is** (or **was**) grass in the field. [Subject: non-count mass noun grass takes singular verb].
 - 8. There **is** (or **was**) an orange in the box. [Subject: singular count noun an orange].
 - 9. There **are** (or **were**) ships on the water. [Subject: plural count noun ships].

- Section B: Exemplar Student Statements (Accept equivalent compositions):**
- There is a little bird sitting on the garden fence.
 - There are three tall pine trees in our schoolyard.

Evaluation Criterion	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (1-2)
Subject-Verb Agreement	Accurately determines singular/plural for all 9 blanks, including mass noun grass.	7-8 of 9 correct; minor difficulty with has/have been.	Persistently chooses wrong verb number (e.g., *There is flowers).
Tense & Aspect Detection	Recognizes last summer requiring were, and been requiring has/have.	Correctly fills simple tense items; needs help on perfect aspect.	Misses tense markers and aspectual auxiliaries.
Sentence Writing	Original sentence beginning with There is/are with perfect noun concord.	Complete sentence with minor capitalization or punctuation slip.	Sentence fragment or subject-verb disagreement.
Mechanics & Handwriting	Clean, legible writing on guidelines with proper spacing and end periods.	Neat handwriting with 1 minor punctuation omission.	Messy handwriting, untidy crossings out, missing periods.