



Forum: Grammar i'¼ æ-ʔæ³i'¼%

Topic: There is/There are

Subject: Re: There is/There are

Posted by: futari

Posted on: 2007/8/20 1:21:44

A few rules from Collins Cobuild English Grammar Book:

I. çµ•æŒš'ä,-çš,,â••è©žè©žçµ,,æ~èʔæ•,æ™,, â'•è©ž"be"ä'Ÿç' ,æʔ%ç'"èʔæ•,â½çâ¼•
(e.g.) There WERE two men in the room.

II. ä,€ç³»â^—äº'ç%©çš,,ç¬¬ä,€é ...æ~â-@æ•,æ^-æ~ä,•â...æ•,â••è©žæ™,,
ç'"be"çš,,â-@æ•,â½çâ¼•
(e.g.) There WAS a sofa and two chairs.

(e.g.) There IS grief in his face and reproach at the injustice of it all.

[**Note:- èj"çºèʔæ•,çš,,æ•,éʔè©ž, â!, "a number of", "a lot of"â'œ"a few of",
â,,ç®jâ%•é•çæœ% "a", â'è!ç'"be"çš,,èʔæ•,â½çâ¼• --- "There WERE a lot of people camping
here."]

III. èj"çºæ•,ç'®çš,,è©žèªž, â!, "a hundred", "a thousand"â'œ"a dozen", â,,ç®jâ%•é•çæœ% "a",
ä'Ÿè!ç'"be"çš,,èʔæ•,â½çâ¼•
(e.g.) There WERE a dozen reasons why you had to upgrade your computer.

More examples:-

- 1) âʔ' There WERE 'no other' jobs available.
- 2) âʔ' There AREN'T 'any' scratches on the table.
- 3a) âʔ' When I opened the fridge there WAS 'only' a bottle of milk, some eggs, and butter.
- 3b) âʔ' When I opened the fridge there WERE 'only' some eggs, a bottle of milk, and butter.

HTH.

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In spoken English, many people simplify the grammar and use "there IS" instead of "there ARE" with plural headwords, and this is increasingly common in the written language.

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