



Learn English Through Stories

Elementary Grammar

**Adopted and modified by
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<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

Banta and Lucy by K S Sandhu

Banta lives in a small town. His house is small but nice. There is a kitchen, a living room, two bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a big window in the living room. It is very bright.

In the kitchen, there is a table and four chairs. There is an apple in the fridge. There isn't a book under the table. There are some cups on the shelf. There aren't any clocks in the kitchen because Banta doesn't need them!

Banta likes facts. He reads many interesting things.

One day, Banta talks to his friend Lucy. "There are twelve stars on the European flag," says Banta.

Lucy smiles. "Yes, that's right."

"There isn't any gravity in space," Banta says.

"True," Lucy answers. "Astronauts float!"

"There is a Rome in every continent of the world," Banta says.

Lucy laughs. "Really? There are seven continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia. So, there are many Romes!"

Banta continues. "There aren't any deserts in Europe."

"That's correct," Lucy says. "Europe has mountains, rivers and forests, but no big deserts."

"There are over 40,000 characters in Chinese writing," Banta tells her.

"Wow!" Lucy says. "Chinese is difficult!"

"In Las Vegas casinos, there aren't any clocks," Banta says.

Lucy nods. "Yes, people play and forget time!"

"In over 90% of plane crashes, there is a survivor," Banta says.

"That's good news," Lucy replies.

"In an average bar of chocolate, there are eight insect legs!" Banta laughs.

Lucy makes a funny face. "Really? I don't want to know!"

Banta smiles. "There are red and white blood cells. There aren't red and black blood cells."

“Good fact,” Lucy says.

“There is one element in water? No, there isn’t. There are two elements: hydrogen and oxygen.”

Lucy says, “Yes, H₂O!”

“There are ten centimetres in a metre? No, there aren’t. There are a hundred centimetres in a metre.”

“True,” Lucy agrees.

“There are more speakers of English than of Chinese? No, there aren’t. There are more speakers of Chinese.”

Lucy says, “But English is everywhere!”

Banta and Lucy sit in the living room. There are two books on the table. There is a cat on the sofa. It is black and white. They are happy friends.

Banta says, “There is a big world. There are many facts. I like to learn!”

Lucy answers, “Me too! Let’s read more tomorrow.”

Banta looks out the window. There is a blue sky. There are birds in the trees. Life is good in the small town.

4

there isn't, there aren't

FORM

negative

There is not (There's not / There isn't) a laboratory in the school.
There are not (There aren't) any plants in the classroom.

questions

Is there an Internet connection in the room?
Are there any notes in your book?

short answers

Yes, there is. / No, there isn't. / No, there's not.
Yes, there are. / No, there aren't.

USE

a / an, some, any

We often use *there is* and *there are* with *a / an, some* and *any*. We use

- *a / an* with singular, countable nouns.
There isn't a book under the table. There is an apple in the fridge.
- *some* and *any* with countable and uncountable plural nouns.
There is some water in the bottle. There aren't any pens in the cup.
- *a / an* and *some* in the affirmative.
There's a letter for you. There are some people waiting.
- *any* with questions and negative statements.
Is there any coffee left? Are there any good films at the cinema?
There isn't any paper in the photocopier. There aren't any girls in the class.

Exercises

1 Complete the gaps with *there is / isn't* or *there are / aren't*.

- a There are twelve stars on the European flag.
- b any gravity in space.
- c a Rome in every continent of the world.
- d any deserts in Europe.
- e over 40,000 characters in Chinese writing.
- f In Las Vegas casinos any clocks.
- g In over 90 % of plane crashes a survivor.
- h In an average bar of chocolate eight insect legs!

2 Use the prompts and *There is / are* and *There isn't / aren't* to write sentences.

- a a post office There is a post office.
- b ~~a hospital~~ There isn't a hospital.
- c two banks
- d a supermarket
- e an airport
- f clothes shops
- g three schools
- h ~~a theatre~~
- i a cinema
- j museums

3 Complete the questions with *Is there* or *Are there*. Then write short answers.

In your town ...

- a Is there a cathedral? Yes there is. / No, there isn't.
- b many shops?
- c a shopping centre?
- d a hospital?
- e many things to do and see?
- f a museum?
- g a theatre?
- h good bus and train services?

4 Correct the sentences. Use the Internet to help you.

- a There are four continents. No, there aren't. There are five.
- b There are six planets in the solar system.
- c There are ten countries in the European Union.
- d There are red and black blood cells.
- e There is one element in water, hydrogen (H₂O).
- f There are ten centimetres in a metre.
- g There are more speakers of English than of Chinese.
- h There are seven questions in this exercise.

5 Complete the sentence with *there, it or they*.

- a *There* are five continents. are Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Europe.
- b is someone in the house. Who is
- c is very wet today and is a lot of traffic.
- d In his class are 12 students but aren't any girls. are all boys.
- e What time is ? is half past four.
- f are some shops in the village but are all closed.
- g is a cinema but aren't any good films on.
- h aren't any tickets left for the concert. is sold out.

the arts

6 Complete the text with *there is / are / isn't / aren't, it is / isn't, and they are / aren't*.



**Vincent's
Bedroom at Arles**

a *There is* a picture next to this text. b a famous painting by Van Gogh of his bedroom at Arles. c a small room. d some furniture in the room. For example, there is a bed on the right of the picture. e a bed for one person. Above the bed f some pictures on the wall. Next to the door, on the left, g a chair. h another chair between the table and the bed. The table and chair are below the window. On the table i some objects – a jug, a glass and a bowl. Next to the door on the right j a towel on a peg. Behind the bed k some more things on the wall but l easy to see. Of course, m any modern things in the room and n very comfortable.



7 Use the prompts to write sentences about a second painting.

a above / another painting / Van Gogh

Above this text there is another painting by Van Gogh.

b name / painting / The Potato Eaters

c five people / picture

d two women / two men / one young girl

e all poor people

f food / table

g above / table / lamp

h a dark / depressing picture

i not comfortable / room

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Translate these sentences into your own language.

- There's a fly in my soup.
- There's a packet for you and it's very big.
- There isn't a class on Thursday.
- We can't go because there isn't any time.
- There aren't many students in the school.

Answers

Unit 4

Ex 1

- a There are b There isn't c There is d There aren't
e There are f there aren't g there is h there are

Ex 2

- a There is a post office. b There isn't a hospital.
c There are two banks. d There is a supermarket.
e There isn't an airport. f There aren't any clothes shops.
g There are three schools. h There isn't a theatre.
i There is a cinema. j There aren't any museums.

Ex 3

- a Is there .. Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.
b Are there .. Yes, there are. / No, there aren't.
c Is there .. Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.
d Is there .. Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.
e Are there .. Yes, there are. / No, there aren't.
f Is there .. Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.
g Is there .. Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.
h Are there .. Yes, there are. / No, there aren't.

Ex 4

- a No, there aren't. There are five.
b No, there aren't. There are nine.
c No, there aren't. There are 26.
d No, there aren't. There are red and white cells.
e No, there isn't. There are two elements, hydrogen and oxygen.
f No, there aren't. There are a hundred centimetres in a metre.
g No, there aren't. There are more speakers of Chinese.
h No, there aren't. There are eight.

Ex 5

- a There, They b There, it c It, there
d there, there, They e it, It f There, they
g There, there h There, It

Ex 6

- a There is b It is c It is d There is e It is
f there are g there is h There is i there are
j there is k there are l they aren't m there aren't
n it isn't

Ex 7

- a Next to this text there is another painting by Van Gogh.
b The name of the painting is The Potato Eaters.
c There are five people in the picture.
d There are two women, two men and one young girl.
e They are all poor people.
f There is some food on the table.
g Above the table there is a lamp.
h It is a dark and depressing picture.
i It isn't a comfortable room.

Answers