

Grammar Expansion - There Is, There are, and Possessives

Instructions: Work with your partner to complete the tasks below in order to review the grammar content of the unit we have been working on. Read the text aloud and fill in the blue spaces with appropriate responses. Try NOT to use your notes or refer to the book!

Task 1: Talking about what's here

In Spanish the verb "haber" refers to the existence of something. In English we do something a little different. We use a phrase consisting of the word "There" and _____ or _____. Why do we do this? Because English likes to be different of course.

When I want to talk about the existence of something, I use that phrase and I just need to modify the second word depending on the _____. So for example, I could say:

- There _____ a person in the doorway.
- There _____ people in the hall.

Look around your room. What examples can you give using the two phrases?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

If I want to say that something does not exist, I can just make the verb _____ negative by adding _____ so I can transform the affirmative phrase into a negative one like:

- There _____ a person in the doorway.
- There _____ people in the hall.

Since we like to be efficient when we speak, we can often make contractions between **there** and the verb **to be**. So for example:

- There is becomes _____
- There are becomes _____

While it is common to make the contraction **there're** when speaking, we never write it!

With the negative we need to contract the **verb to be** and _____ so:

- There is becomes _____
- There are becomes _____

Typically, when we use the phrase **there aren't** we also use the word _____ before the noun. For example:

- There aren't _____ plants in my house. My dog ate them.
- There aren't _____ seats left on the bus. I have to stand.

If we want to ask questions about the existence of people and things, it's really easy. We use **there is** and **there are** in our questions but we have to invert the words so the questions begin like this:

- _____
- _____

Again, when asking about plurals we typically use the word **any** before the noun so the questions could be:

- _____ plants in your house?
- _____ seats left on the bus?

Last week we looked at yes/no questions and we saw that it sounds rude if I just answer by saying **Yes** or **No**. To be more polite I need to add a two word phrase afterward. When answering Yes/No questions about the existence of something, my polite short answers are:

- Yes, _____ (singular)
- No, _____ (singular)
- Yes, _____ (plural)
- No, _____ (plural)

We can use **there is** and **there are** to talk about the existence of something in a particular place:

- There is _____ on the table.
- There are _____ in the closet.

But we can also use them to talk about time events. So I can say:

- There is _____ on June 21st! You don't want to miss it.
- There are two _____ at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Task 3: Possessive Nouns

A possession is something that belongs to someone. In Spanish it is common to use the word **of** to show possession. So you would say something like **This is the car of my mother**. In English this makes sense but nobody uses this expression. It sounds strange. We prefer to use a different structure by adding 's at the end of the person to show ownership. Transform the previous sentence using the word **mother's**.

- _____

We can put the 's at the end of any noun (person, place, or thing) that is the owner. Write some examples:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

This is pretty easy, but there are a couple of tricks to remember. If the noun is plural and ends in **S**, then I don't write '**S**. Instead I write _____. Transform the sentence **The class of the students** using a possessive noun.

- _____

The same thing happens when a person's name finishes with **S**. Can you think of any examples?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Task 3: Possessive Adjectives

Another common way to indicate ownership is to use possessive adjectives. Fill in the blanks with the missing word.

- This is _____ (I) book.
- This is _____ (you) book.
- This is _____ (he) book.
- This is _____ (she) book.
- This is _____ (it) book.
- This is _____ (we) book.
- This is _____ (they) book.

Task 4: Possessive Pronouns

A final way that we can indicate possession is to use possessive pronouns. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

- This book is _____ (I).
- This book is _____ (you).
- This book is _____ (he).
- This book is _____ (she).
- This book is _____ (it). *****We don't use this form.**
- This book is _____ (we).
- This book is _____ (they).

Task 5: Whose

Finally, when we want to ask about the owner of an object, we use the word **whose**. So I can say:

- **Whose** car is this?
 - It's Kim's car.
- **Whose** keys are these?
 - They are Mark's keys.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE AN EXPERT IN THE GRAMMAR OF THIS UNIT!