

# Lesson Three

## GRAMMAR

Singular and Plural  
Articles and Quantity Words  
*There* + *Be* + Noun

## CONTEXT

Americans and Where They Live  
Finding an Apartment  
Calling about an Apartment

## LESSON FOCUS

Nouns can be *singular* or *plural*<sup>1</sup>.

I have one *brother*.

I have three *sisters*.

We can use *articles* and *quantity words* before nouns.

I have *an* aunt in New York.

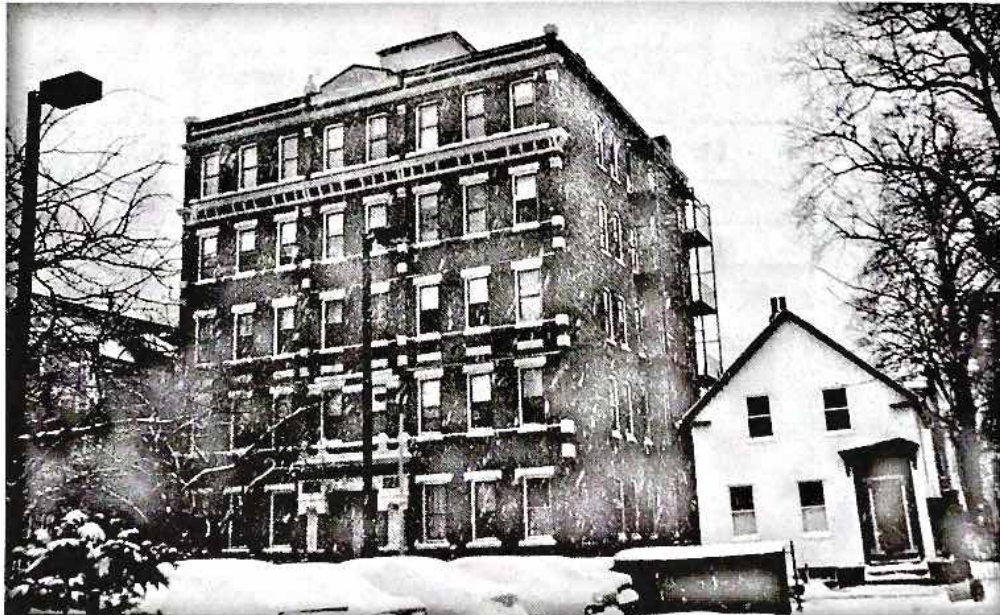
I have *some* cousins in Boston.

We can introduce a noun with *there* + a form of *be*.

*There's* an apple in the refrigerator.

*There are* some peaches on the table.

<sup>1</sup> Some nouns have no plural form. These are noncount nouns. See Lesson 10 for information about noncount nouns.



- Before You Read**
1. Do you know anyone who lives alone?
  2. Does your family own a house or rent an apartment?

Read the following information. Pay special attention to plural nouns.

## Americans and Where They Live<sup>2</sup>

1. There are about 270 million **people** in the United States.
2. 56% of adult **Americans** are married.
3. Four million **children** (6%) under 18 live with **grandparents**.
4. 68% of **children** live with two **parents**.
5. 82% of single **parents** are **women**.
6. 25 million **Americans** (about 10%) live alone.
7. The average family has 3.19 **people**.
8. 65% of American **families** own their **homes**.
9. **People** pay 25% of their income on home **expenses**. **Renters** pay more than **owners**. (**Owners** pay 21% of their income. **Renters** pay 26%.)

**Characteristics of Home Buyers, 1997**

Median purchase price	\$159,700
First-time buyers	\$135,400
Repeat buyers	\$178,700
Average monthly mortgage payment	\$ 1,114
As percent of income	32.8%
Average age (in years)	
First-time buyers	32.1
Repeat buyers	41.1

**Living Arrangements of Children Under 18, 1997**

All children under 18	70,983
Living with:	
Two parents	48,386
One parent	19,799
Mother only	16,740
Father only	3,059
Other relatives	1,983
Nonrelatives only	815

<sup>2</sup> Statistics are from 1997 census estimates.



10. The average American moves 10 **times** in his or her lifetime. **Renters** move more than **owners**. Young **people** move more than older **people**.
11. The most expensive **homes** are in San Francisco and Boston. Other **cities** with expensive **homes** are San Diego, New York City, and Washington, D.C.
12. The average number of **rooms** in a house is 5.4.
13. 25% of **homeowners** are over 65 years old.

### 3.1 Regular Noun Plurals

Word Ending	Example Words	Plural Addition	Plural Form
Vowel	bee banana pie	+ s	bees bananas pies
Consonant	bed pin month	+ s	beds pins months
ss, sh, ch, x	class dish church box	+ es	classes dishes churches boxes
Vowel + y	boy day monkey	+ s	boys days monkeys
Consonant + y	lady story party	y + ies	ladies stories parties
Vowel + o	patio stereo radio	+ s	patios stereos radios
Consonant + o	mosquito tomato potato	+ es	mosquitoes tomatoes potatoes
EXCEPTIONS: photos, pianos, solos, altos, sopranos, autos, avocados			
f or fe	knife leaf calf	f + ves	knives leaves calves
EXCEPTIONS: beliefs, chiefs, roofs, chefs			

**EXERCISE 1** Write the plural form of each noun.

**EXAMPLES:** leaf leaves  
toy toys

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. dish _____    | 17. mosquito _____ |
| 2. country _____ | 18. lion _____     |
| 3. half _____    | 19. fly _____      |
| 4. book _____    | 20. cow _____      |
| 5. boy _____     | 21. shark _____    |
| 6. girl _____    | 22. roach _____    |
| 7. bench _____   | 23. fox _____      |
| 8. box _____     | 24. horse _____    |
| 9. table _____   | 25. turkey _____   |
| 10. stereo _____ | 26. chicken _____  |
| 11. knife _____  | 27. wolf _____     |
| 12. story _____  | 28. dog _____      |
| 13. sofa _____   | 29. squirrel _____ |
| 14. key _____    | 30. pony _____     |
| 15. movie _____  | 31. duck _____     |
| 16. bath _____   | 32. moth _____     |

**3.2** Pronunciation of Plural Nouns

Pronounce /s/	Pronounce /z/		Pronounce /əz/
lip—lips	cab—cabs	can—cans	bus—buses
cat—cats	lid—lids	thing—things	cause—causes
rock—rocks	bag—bags	bill—bills	class—classes
cuff—cuffs	stove—stoves	car—cars	dish—dishes
month—months	sum—sums	bee—bees	beach—beaches
			garage—garages
			place—places
			tax—taxes



## LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We pronounce /s/ after voiceless sounds: /p, t, k, f, θ/
2. We pronounce /z/ after voiced sounds: /b, d, g, v, m, n, ŋ, l, r/ and all vowels.
3. We pronounce /əz/ after *s, se, ss, sh, ch, ge, ce, x*.

**EXERCISE 2** Go back to Exercise 1 and pronounce the plural form of each word.

### 3.3 Irregular Noun Plurals

Singular	Plural	Examples	Explanation
man woman mouse tooth foot goose	men women mice teeth feet geese	One <b>man</b> is here. Two <b>men</b> are there. One <b>woman</b> is late. Five <b>women</b> are on time.	Vowel change
sheep fish deer	sheep fish deer	One <b>sheep</b> is here. Three <b>sheep</b> are there.	No change
child person	children people (OR persons)	One <b>person</b> is late. Five <b>people</b> are absent.	Different word form
	pajamas clothes pants/slacks (eye)glasses scissors	Your <b>clothes</b> are dirty. My <b>glasses</b> are broken.	No singular form

## LANGUAGE NOTES

1. *People* is more common than *persons*.  
Five *people* in my class speak Spanish.
2. Number words (*hundred, thousand, million*) use the singular form.  
The U.S. has over 270 *million* people.  
Two *hundred* people live in my building.
3. Listen to your teacher's pronunciation of *woman* (singular) and *women* (plural). The difference is in the first syllable.

**EXERCISE 3** The following nouns have an irregular plural form. Write the plural.

**EXAMPLE:** man men

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. foot _____      | 5. fish _____  |
| 2. woman _____     | 6. mouse _____ |
| 3. policeman _____ | 7. sheep _____ |
| 4. child _____     | 8. tooth _____ |

**EXERCISE 4** Use the plural of each noun to ask, "How many . . . do you have?" Another student will answer. For a zero answer, say, "I don't have any <plural form>."

**EXAMPLE:** sister  
 A. How many sisters do you have?  
 B. I have two sisters. OR I don't have any sisters.

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. child   | 7. telephone  |
| 2. brother | 8. watch      |
| 3. sister  | 9. television |
| 4. niece   | 10. radio     |
| 5. nephew  | 11. cousin    |
| 6. aunt    | 12. computer  |

### 3.4 Making Generalizations

Examples	Explanation
<p>A <b>house</b> is expensive.  <b>Houses</b> are expensive.</p> <p>A <b>child</b> needs love.  <b>Children</b> need love.</p> <p>A <b>family</b> has responsibilities.  <b>Families</b> have responsibilities.</p>	<p>We can make generalizations about the subject of the sentence two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By using the indefinite articles (<i>a</i> or <i>an</i>) with a singular noun.</li> <li>• By using the plural form of the noun with no article.</li> </ul> <p>We are saying that something is true of all members of a group.</p>
<p>I like American <b>houses</b>.  I don't like big <b>buildings</b>.</p>	<p>After the verb, we usually use the plural form with no article to make a generalization.</p>



**EXERCISE 5** Change the subject from plural to singular. Make other necessary changes. (Both singular and plural give a generalization.)

**EXAMPLE:** Students have to learn grammar.  
*A student has to learn grammar.*

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1. Adults have a lot of responsibilities.

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2. Children like to play.

---

3. Single parents have a hard job.

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4. Women live longer than men.

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5. Cars are expensive.

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6. Houses cost a lot of money.

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**EXERCISE 6** Change the subject from singular to plural. Make other necessary changes. (Both singular and plural give a generalization.)

**EXAMPLE:** A student has many responsibilities.  
*Students have many responsibilities.*

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1. A child needs love.

---

2. An egg has protein.

---

3. A banana is yellow.

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4. A dog is intelligent.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. A dolphin doesn't live on land.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. A mouse is small.

\_\_\_\_\_



dolphin

**EXERCISE 7** Use the plural form of the word in parentheses ( ) to make a generalization. Remember, don't use an article with the plural form to make a generalization. (You may work with a partner.)

**EXAMPLES:**

(child)

*Children like to watch cartoons.*

American (highway)

*American highways are in good condition.*

1. (American)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. American (child)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. big (city) in the U.S.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. (teacher) at this college

\_\_\_\_\_

5. (student) at this college

\_\_\_\_\_

6. American (doctor)

\_\_\_\_\_

7. old (person) in the U.S.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. American (woman)

\_\_\_\_\_



**EXERCISE 8** Use the noun in parentheses ( ) to give general information about your native country. Use the plural form with no article.

**EXAMPLE:** (woman)  
Generally, women don't work outside the home in my native country.

1. (person)
2. old (person)
3. (woman)
4. (man)
5. (house)
6. poor (person)
7. (car)
8. (doctor)

**EXERCISE 9** Add a plural subject to these sentences to make a generalization.

**EXAMPLE:** Small children need a lot of sleep.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ make a lot of money.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ have a hard life.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ talk on the phone a lot.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are in good physical condition.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ believe in Santa Claus.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ worry about children.

**EXERCISE 10** Use the plural form of each noun to tell if you like or don't like the following:

**EXAMPLE:** apple  
I like apples. OR I don't like apples.

1. tomato
2. orange
3. strawberry
4. grape
5. banana
6. peach
7. radish
8. pear
9. potato
10. cherry

**EXERCISE 11** Ask "Do you like" + the plural form of the noun. Another student will answer.

**EXAMPLES:**

child

A. Do you like children?

B. Yes, I do.

dog

A. Do you like dogs?

B. No, I don't.

1. cat

7. comic book

2. dog

8. computer

3. American doctor

9. computer game

4. American car

10. strict teacher

5. American movie

11. American supermarket

6. fashion magazine

12. American textbook

**Before You Read**

1. Do you live in a house, an apartment, or a dorm?<sup>3</sup> Do you live alone?
2. Do you like the place where you live? Why or why not?



Read the following article. Pay special attention to *there* + *be* followed by singular and plural nouns.

<sup>3</sup> *Dorm* is short for *dormitory*, a building where students live.





## Finding an Apartment

**There are** several ways to find an apartment. One way is to look in the newspaper. **There is** an “Apartments for Rent” section in the back of the newspaper. **There are** many ads for apartments. **There are** also ads for houses for rent and houses for sale.

Another way to find an apartment is by looking at the buildings in the neighborhood where you want to live. **There are** often “For Rent” signs on the front of the buildings. **There is** usually a phone number on the sign. You can call and ask for information about the apartment that you are interested in. You can ask:

- How much is the rent?
- Is heat included?
- What floor is the apartment on?
- Is there an elevator?
- How many bedrooms **are there** in the apartment?
- How many closets **are there** in the apartment?
- Is the apartment available<sup>4</sup> now?

If an apartment interests you, you can make an appointment to see it. When you go to see the apartment, you should ask some more questions, such as the following:

- Is there a lease?<sup>5</sup> How long is the lease?
- Is there a janitor or manager?
- Is there a parking space for each tenant? Is it free, or do I have to pay extra?
- Are there smoke detectors? (In many places, the law says that the landlord must put a smoke detector in each apartment and in the halls.)
- Is there a laundry room in the building? Where is it?

The landlord may ask you a few questions, such as:

- How many people **are there** in your family?
- Do you have any pets?

You should check over the apartment carefully before you sign the lease. **If there are** some problems, you should talk to the landlord to see if he will take care of them before you move in.

### Did you know...?

The most expensive apartments in the U.S. are in San Francisco.

<sup>4</sup> Available means ready to use now.

<sup>5</sup> A lease is a contract between the owner (landlord or landlady) and the renter (tenant). It tells how much the rent is, how long the tenant can stay in the apartment, and other rules.



## 3.5

### Using *There* + *Be*

#### SINGULAR

<i>There</i> + <i>Is</i> (+ <i>Not</i> )	Singular Word	Singular Noun	Prepositional Phrase
<b>There is</b>	a	janitor	in my building.
<b>There is</b>	one	dryer	in the basement.
<b>There isn't</b>	a	back door	in my apartment.
<b>There is</b>	no	back door	in my apartment.

#### PLURAL

<i>There</i> + <i>Are</i> (+ <i>Not</i> )	Plural Word	Plural Noun	Prepositional Phrase
<b>There are</b>	—	numbers	on the doors of the apartments.
<b>There are</b>	several	windows	in the bedroom.
<b>There are</b>	many	Americans	in my building.
<b>There are</b>	some	children	in my building.
<b>There are</b>	two	closets	in the hall.
<b>There aren't</b>	any	shades	on the windows.
<b>There are</b>	no	shades	on the windows.

## LANGUAGE NOTES

- We use *there* + *is* to introduce a singular subject into a conversation. We use *there* + *are* to introduce a plural subject.<sup>6</sup>
- We can make a contraction for *there is* → *there's*. We don't write a contraction for *there are*.
- A sentence that begins with *there* often shows a place or a time.  
*There's a good movie at the Garden Theater.*  
*There's a good movie at 8 o'clock.*
- If two nouns follow *there*, use a singular verb (*is*) if the first noun is singular. Use a plural verb (*are*) if the first noun is plural.  
*There's a closet in the bedroom and two closets in the hall.*  
*There are two closets in the hall and one closet in the bedroom.*  
*There is a washer and a dryer in the basement.*

<sup>6</sup> In conversation, you will sometimes hear *there's* with plural nouns.  
 INFORMAL: *There's a lot of empty apartments in my building.*  
 FORMAL: *There are a lot of empty apartments in my building.*



5. *There* never introduces a specific noun. Don't use a noun with a definite article (*the*) after *there*.

WRONG: There's the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

RIGHT: The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.

**EXERCISE 12** Use the words given to make a statement about the place where you live (house or apartment). If you live in a dorm, use Exercise 13 instead.

**EXAMPLES:**

carpet/in the living room

There's a carpet in the living room.

OR

There isn't a carpet in the living room.

trees/in front of the building

There are two trees in front of the building.

OR

There are no trees in front of the building.

1. closet/in the living room

2. blinds/on the windows

3. door/in every room

4. window/in every room

5. lease

6. porch

7. number/on the door of the apartment

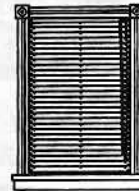
8. overhead light/in every room

9. microwave oven/in the kitchen

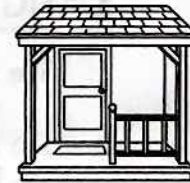
10. back door

11. fireplace

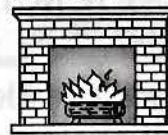
12. smoke detector



blinds



porch



fireplace

**EXERCISE 13** Make a statement about your dorm and dorm room with the words given. (If you live in an apartment or house, skip this exercise.)

**EXAMPLES:**

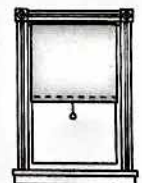
window/in the room

There's a window in the room.

curtains/on the window

There are no curtains on the window.

There are shades.



shade

1. closet/in the room
2. two beds/in the room
3. private bath/for every room
4. men and women/in the dorm
5. cafeteria/in the dorm
6. snack machines/in the dorm
7. noisy students/in the dorm
8. numbers/on the doors of the rooms
9. elevator(s)/in the dorm
10. laundry room/in the dorm

## 3.6

### Questions with *There*

<i>Is/Are</i> + <i>There</i>	<i>Noun Phrase</i>	<i>Prepositional Phrase</i>	<i>Short Answer</i>
<b>Is there</b>	a laundry room	in your building?	No, there isn't.
<b>Are there</b>	any cabinets	in the kitchen?	Yes, there are.
<b>Are there</b>	any empty apartments	in your building?	Yes, there are.

<i>How Many</i> + <i>Noun</i>	<i>Are There</i>	<i>Prepositional Phrase</i>	<i>Answer</i>
How many closets	<b>are there</b>	in your apartment?	There are three.
How many apartments	<b>are there</b>	in your building?	There are ten.

## LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We usually use *any* to introduce a plural noun in a *yes/no* question.  
Are there *any* empty apartments in your building?
2. Do not make a contraction for a short *yes* answer.  
Is there an elevator in your building?  
Yes, there is. NOT: Yes, there's.

**EXERCISE 14** Ask and answer questions with *there* and the words given to find out about another student's apartment and building. (If you live in a dorm, use Exercise 15 instead.)

**EXAMPLES:** a microwave oven/in your apartment  
A. Is there a microwave oven in your apartment?  
B. No, there isn't.

closets/in the bedroom  
A. Are there any closets in the bedroom?  
B. Yes. There's one closet in the bedroom.

1. children/in your building
2. a dishwasher/in the kitchen



3. a yard/in front of your building
4. trees/in front of your building
5. a basement/in the building
6. a laundry room/in the basement
7. a janitor/in the building
8. noisy neighbors/in the building
9. nosy<sup>7</sup> neighbors/in the building
10. an elevator/in the building
11. parking spaces/for the tenants
12. a lot of closets/in the apartment
13. how many apartments/in your building
14. how many parking spaces/in front of your building

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**EXERCISE 15** Ask and answer questions with *there* and the words given to find out about another student's dorm. (If you live in an apartment or house, skip this exercise.)

**EXAMPLE:**

a bicycle room/in your dorm

- A. Is there a bicycle room in your dorm?  
 B. No, there isn't.

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. married students | 7. graduate students               |
| 2. private rooms    | 8. a quiet place to study          |
| 3. a bicycle room   | 9. an air conditioner/in your room |
| 4. a computer room  | 10. a parking lot/for your dorm    |
| 5. an elevator      | 11. how many rooms/in your dorm    |
| 6. a bulletin board | 12. how many floors/in your dorm   |

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**EXERCISE 16** Use the words given to ask the teacher a question about his or her office. Your teacher will answer.

**EXAMPLES:**

pencil sharpener

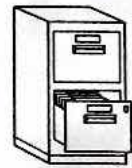
- A. Is there a pencil sharpener in your office?  
 B. No, there isn't.

<sup>7</sup> A *nosy* person is a person who wants to know everyone's business.

books

- A. Are there any books in your office?  
B. Yes. There are a lot of books in my office.

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. phone                 | 6. windows       |
| 2. answering machine     | 7. calendar      |
| 3. photos of your family | 8. bookshelves   |
| 4. radio                 | 9. plants        |
| 5. copy machine          | 10. file cabinet |



file cabinet

**EXERCISE 17** A student is calling about an apartment for rent. Fill in the blanks with *there is, there are, is there, are there*, and other related words to complete this phone conversation between the student (S) and the landlady (L).

- S. I'm calling about an apartment for rent on Grover Street.
- L. We have two apartments available. There's a four-room (example) apartment on the first floor and a three-room apartment on the fourth floor. Which one are you interested in?
- S. I prefer the smaller apartment. (1) an elevator in the building?
- L. Yes, there is. How many people (2) in your family?
- S. It's just for me. I live alone. I'm a student. I need a quiet apartment. Is this a quiet building?
- L. Oh, yes. (3) no kids in the building.
- S. I have a car. (4) parking spaces?
- L. Yes. (5) 20 spaces in back of the building.
- S. How (6) apartments (7) in the building?
- L. (8) 30 apartments.
- S. Twenty parking spaces for 30 apartments? Then (9) enough spaces for all the tenants.
- L. Don't worry. Not everyone has a car. Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis.<sup>8</sup> And (10) plenty of<sup>9</sup> spaces on the street.

<sup>8</sup> A *first-come, first-served* basis means that people who arrive first will get something first (parking spaces, theater tickets, classes at registration).

<sup>9</sup> *Plenty of* means a lot of.



- S. \_\_\_\_\_ a laundry room in the building?  
(11)
- L. Yes. There are washers and dryers in the basement.
- S. How much is the rent?
- L. It's \$650 a month.
- S. When can I see the apartment?
- L. How about tomorrow at six o'clock?
- S. That'll be fine. Thanks.

## 3.7

### There vs. They and Other Pronouns

There	Other Pronouns
There's an empty apartment on the first floor.	It's available now.
There's a janitor in the building.	He's in the basement now.
There are a lot of parking spaces.	They're for the tenants.
There are two washing machines.	They're in the basement.

## LANGUAGE NOTES

- We use *there* + *be* to introduce a new noun. When we refer to the same noun again, we use *it*, *they*, or other pronouns.
- We pronounce *there* and *they're* exactly the same. Listen to your teacher pronounce the sentences from the box above.

**EXERCISE 18** Fill in the blanks with *there's*, *there are*, *it's* or *they're*.

**EXAMPLE:** *There's* \_\_\_\_\_ a small apartment for rent in my building.

*It's* \_\_\_\_\_ on the fourth floor.

- \_\_\_\_\_ two apartments for rent. \_\_\_\_\_ not on the same floor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a laundry room in the building. \_\_\_\_\_ in the basement.
- The parking spaces are in the back of the building. \_\_\_\_\_ for the tenants with cars.

4. The parking spaces don't cost extra. \_\_\_\_\_ free for the tenants.
5. The apartment is small. \_\_\_\_\_ on the fourth floor.
6. The building has 30 apartments. \_\_\_\_\_ a big building.
7. The student wants to see the apartment. \_\_\_\_\_ on Grover Street.
8. The building is quiet because \_\_\_\_\_ no kids in the building.
9. How much is the rent? \_\_\_\_\_ \$650 a month.
10. Is the rent high? No, \_\_\_\_\_ not high.

**EXERCISE 19** Ask a question about this school using *there* and the words given. Another student will answer. If the answer is "yes," ask a question with *where*.

**EXAMPLES:**

a cafeteria

A. Is there a cafeteria at this school?

B. Yes, there is.

A. Where is it?

B. It's on the first floor.

lockers

A. Are there any lockers at this school?

B. Yes, there are.

A. Where are they?

B. They're near the gym.

1. a library

8. tennis courts

2. vending machines

9. dormitories

3. public telephones

10. a parking lot

4. a computer room

11. a bookstore

5. a cafeteria

12. copy machines

6. a gym

13. a student lounge

7. a swimming pool

14. a fax machine

- Before You Read**
1. Does your neighborhood have more apartment buildings or houses?
  2. Do you prefer to live alone, with a roommate, or with your family? Why?



Read the following phone conversation between a student (S) and the manager (M) of a building. Pay special attention to the definite article (*the*), the indefinite articles (*a, an*), and indefinite quantity words (*some, any*)?



## Calling about an Apartment

- S. Hello? I want to speak with **the** landlord.  
M. I'm **the** manager of **the** building. Can I help you?  
S. I need to find **a** new apartment.  
M. Where do you live now?  
S. I live in **a** big apartment on Wright Street. I have **a** roommate, but he's graduating, and I need **a** smaller apartment. Are there **any** small apartments for rent in your building?  
M. There's one.  
S. What floor is it on?  
M. It's on **the** third floor.  
S. Does it have **a** bedroom?  
M. No. It's **a** studio apartment. It has **a** living room and **a** kitchen.  
S. Is **the** living room big?  
M. So-so.  
S. Does **the** kitchen have **a** stove and **a** refrigerator?  
M. Yes. **The** refrigerator is old, but it works well. **The** stove is pretty new.  
S. When can I see **the** apartment?  
M. **The** janitor can show it to you tomorrow at 9 a.m.

### 3.8 Articles and Quantity Words

SINGULAR:

Indefinite	Definite	Explanation
I live in <b>a</b> big building.  There's <b>a</b> janitor in the building.	<b>The</b> building is near the college.  <b>The</b> janitor lives on the first floor.	We introduce a singular noun with the indefinite articles ( <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> ). When we refer to this noun again, we use the definite article <i>the</i> .
	May I speak to <b>the</b> landlord?  He lives on <b>the</b> third floor.  <b>The</b> basement is dirty.	We use <i>the</i> before a singular noun if this noun is the only one or if the speaker and listener share an experience and are referring to the same one. (In this case, they are talking about the same building.)

(continued)

PLURAL:

Indefinite	Definite	Explanation
My building has <b>(some)</b> washing machines. Are there <b>(any)</b> dryers?	<b>The</b> washing machines are in the basement. Where are <b>the</b> dryers?	We introduce a plural noun with <i>some</i> , <i>any</i> , or no article. When we refer to this noun again, we use the definite article <i>the</i> .
	<b>The</b> tenants are angry. <b>The</b> washing machines don't work.	We use <i>the</i> before a plural noun if the speaker and the listener share the same experience. (In this case, they are talking about the same building.)

**EXERCISE 20** These are conversations between two students. Fill in the blanks with *the*, *a*, *an*, *some*, or *any*.

**Conversation 1**

- A. Is there <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ copy machine in our library?  
(example)
- B. Yes. There are several copy machines in \_\_\_\_\_ library.  
(1)
- A. Are \_\_\_\_\_ copy machines free?  
(2)
- B. No. You need to use \_\_\_\_\_ nickel<sup>10</sup> for \_\_\_\_\_ copy machines.  
(3) (4)

**Conversation 2**

- A. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ cafeteria at this school?  
(1)
- B. Yes, there is.
- A. Where's \_\_\_\_\_ cafeteria?  
(2)
- B. It's on \_\_\_\_\_ first floor.  
(3)
- A. Are there \_\_\_\_\_ snack machines in \_\_\_\_\_ cafeteria?  
(4) (5)
- B. Yes, there are.
- A. I want to buy \_\_\_\_\_ soft drink.  
(6)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ soft-drink machine is out of order today.  
(7)

<sup>10</sup> A *nickel* is a five-cent coin.



### Conversation 3

- A. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ bookstore for this college?  
(1)
- B. Yes, there is.
- A. Where is \_\_\_\_\_ bookstore?  
(2)
- B. It's on Green Street.
- A. I need to buy \_\_\_\_\_ dictionary.  
(3)
- B. Today is \_\_\_\_\_ holiday. \_\_\_\_\_ bookstore is closed today.  
(4) (5)

## SUMMARY OF LESSON 3

### 1. Singular and Plural

boy—boys

box—boxes

story—stories

(Exceptions: men, women, people, children, feet, teeth)

### 2. *There + be*

**There's** an empty apartment in my building.

**There are** two washing machines in the basement.

**Are there** any parking spaces?

### 3. Articles

- To make a generalization:

Singular **A dog** has good hearing.

Plural **Dogs** have good hearing.

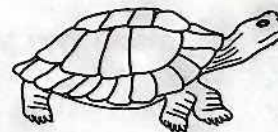
I like **dogs**.

- To introduce a new noun into the conversation:

Singular I have **a dog**.

Plural I have **(some) turtles**.

I don't have **(any) birds**.



turtle

- To talk about a previously mentioned noun:

Singular I have a dog. **The dog** barks when the letter carrier arrives.

Plural I have some turtles. I keep **the turtles** in the bathroom.

- To talk about specific items or people from our experience:

Singular **The janitor** cleans the basement once a week.

Plural **The tenants** have to take out their own garbage.

- To talk about the only one:

**The President** lives in Washington, D.C.

**The Statue of Liberty** is in New York.

## EDITING ADVICE

1. *People* is a plural noun. Use a plural verb form.  
People in my country <sup>are</sup> is very poor.
2. Don't use *the* with a generalization.  
<sup>D</sup>The dogs are friendly animals.
3. Don't confuse *there* with *they're*.  
I have two brothers. <sup>They're</sup> There in Florida.
4. Don't forget to use *there* + *is/are* to introduce a new subject.  
In my class <sup>there are</sup> five students from Haiti.
5. Don't confuse *it's* and *there's*.  
<sup>There's</sup> It's a closet in my bedroom.
6. Don't confuse *have* and *there*.  
<sup>There's</sup> Have a closet in my bedroom.
7. Don't use *the* + a unique noun after *there*.  
<sup>T</sup> There's <sup>is</sup> the Golden Gate Bridge in California.
8. Don't use *the* with the first mention of a noun when you and the listener do not share a common experience with this noun.  
I have <sup>a</sup> the new watch.
9. Don't use an apostrophe for a plural ending.  
She has three <sup>brothers</sup> brother's.



# LESSON 3 TEST / REVIEW

## PART 1

A woman is showing her new apartment to her friend. Find the mistakes with the underlined words in this conversation and correct them. If the sentence is correct, write C.

- A. Let me show you around my new apartment.
- B. It's a big apartment. C
- A. It's big enough for my family. They're <sup>There</sup> are four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Has each bedroom a large closet. Let me show you my kitchen too.  
(1)
- B. Oh. It's a new dishwasher in your kitchen.  
(2)
- A. It's wonderful. You know how I hate to wash dishes.  
(3)
- B. Is there a microwave oven?  
(4)
- A. No, there isn't, unfortunately.  
(5)
- B. Are any washers and dryers for clothes?  
(6)
- A. Oh, yes. They're in the basement. In the laundry room are five washers and five dryers. I never have to wait.  
(7) (8)
- B. There are a lot of people in your building?  
(9)
- A. In my building thirty apartments.  
(10)
- B. Is a janitor in your building?  
(11)
- A. Yes. There's a very good janitor. He keeps the building very clean.  
(12)
- B. I suppose this apartment costs a lot.
- A. Well, yes. The rent is high. But I share the apartment with my cousins.  
(13)

## PART 2

Write the plural form for each noun.

- |        |              |       |       |       |       |
|--------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| box    | <u>boxes</u> | month | _____ | child | _____ |
| card   | _____        | match | _____ | desk  | _____ |
| foot   | _____        | shelf | _____ | key   | _____ |
| potato | _____        | radio | _____ | story | _____ |
| woman  | _____        | mouse | _____ | bus   | _____ |

### PART 3

Fill in the blanks with *there, is, are, it, or they* or a combination of more than one of these words.

- A. Are there any museums in Chicago?  
(example)
- B. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of museums in Chicago.  
(1)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ a history museum in Chicago?  
(2)
- B. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ is.  
(3)
- A. Where \_\_\_\_\_ the history museum?  
(4)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ near downtown.  
(5)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ any mummies in this museum?  
(6)
- B. Yes, there are. \_\_\_\_\_ from Egypt.  
(7)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ a dinosaur in this museum?  
(8)
- B. Yes, there is. \_\_\_\_\_ on the first floor.  
(9)
- A. How many floors \_\_\_\_\_ in this museum?  
(10)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ two floors and a basement.  
(11)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ a parking lot near this museum?  
(12)
- B. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ not very big.  
(13) (14)

### PART 4

Fill in the blanks with *the, a, an, some, any*, or *X* for no article.

- A. Do you like your apartment?  
B. No, I don't.
- A. Why not?  
B. There are many reasons. First, I don't like the janitor. He's impolite.  
(example)
- A. Anything else?  
B. I want to get \_\_\_\_\_ dog.  
(1)
- A. So?  
B. It's not permitted. \_\_\_\_\_ landlord says that \_\_\_\_\_ dogs make a lot of noise.  
(2) (3)
- A. Can you get \_\_\_\_\_ cat?  
(4)



- B. Yes, but I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ cats.  
(5)
- A. Is your building quiet?
- B. No. There are \_\_\_\_\_ children in \_\_\_\_\_ building. When I try to  
(6) (7)  
study, I can hear \_\_\_\_\_ children in the next apartment. They watch  
(8)  
TV all the time.
- A. You need to find \_\_\_\_\_ new apartment.  
(9)
- B. I think you're right.

## EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. Make a list of things you have, things you don't have but would like to have, and things you don't need. Choose from the list below and add any other items you can think of. Then find a partner and compare lists.

a computer	a house	a credit card
a VCR	a diamond ring	a speakerphone
a digital camera	a scale	a cell phone
an encyclopedia	an electric can opener	an orange juice squeezer
a pager	a microwave oven	a letter opener
an electric toothbrush	a waterbed	a blow dryer
a CD player		

I have:	I don't have, but would like to have:	I don't need:

Discuss your chart with a partner. Tell why you need or don't need some things. Tell why you want some things that you don't have.

2. People often use the newspaper to look for an apartment. The Sunday newspaper has the most ads. Bring in a copy of the Sunday newspaper. Look at the section of the newspaper that has apartments for rent. Ask the teacher to help you understand the abbreviations.
3. What other sections are there in the Sunday newspaper? Work with a partner and make a list of everything you can find in the Sunday paper.

**EXAMPLE:**

There's a TV schedule for this week's programs.  
 There are a lot of ads and coupons.  
 There's a crossword puzzle.

4. Look at the information about two apartments for rent below. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of each one? Discuss your answers with a partner or with the entire class.

Apartment 1	Apartment 2
a view of a park rent = \$750 fifth floor (an elevator in the building) a new kitchen with a dishwasher pets not allowed hardwood floors the janitor lives in the building management controls the heat no air conditioners faces north only a one-year lease a large building—50 apartments washers and dryers on each floor parking spaces on first-come, first-served basis	on a busy street rent = \$650 third floor walk-up old appliances in the kitchen pets allowed a carpet in the living room the owner lives in the building on the first floor the tenant controls the heat air conditioners in the bedroom and living room faces east, south, and west no lease a small building—6 apartments a laundry room in the basement a parking space for each tenant

5. Do you have a picture of your house, apartment, or apartment building? Bring it to class and tell about it.
6. Find a partner and pretend that one of you is looking for an apartment and the other person is the landlady, landlord, or manager. Ask and answer questions about the apartment, the building, parking, laundry, and rent. Write your conversation. Then read it to the class.
7. One student thinks of the name of a place (a zoo, a museum, downtown, the school cafeteria, a parking lot, a park, the public library, etc.) He or she writes the name of this place on a piece of paper. Other students try to guess this place by asking questions. You get ten guesses.

**Sample Questions:**

Are there a lot of people in this place?  
 Are there any pictures in this place?  
 Is it indoors or outdoors?



8. A student thinks of a word or phrase and writes blanks for each letter on the chalkboard. The other students try to guess the word by asking: "Is there a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in this word?" If someone guesses a correct letter, the student at the chalkboard fills in the blank. The object of the game is to guess the word or phrase.

## DISCUSSIONS

In a small group or with the entire class, discuss the following:

1. How do people rent apartments in your hometown? Is rent high? Is heat usually included in the rent? Does the landlord usually live in the building?
2. What are some differences between a typical apartment in this city and a typical apartment in your hometown?

## WRITING

1. Write a description of a room or place that you like very much. (Review prepositions in Lesson One.)

### EXAMPLE:

My favorite place is my living room. There are many pictures on the walls. There's a picture of my grandparents behind the sofa. There are a lot of pictures of my children on the wall next to the sofa.

There's a TV in the corner. Under the TV there is a VCR. There's a box of videocassettes next to the VCR. . . .

2. Write a comparison of your apartment in this city and your apartment or house in your hometown.

### EXAMPLE:

There are many differences between my apartment here and my apartment in Kiev, Ukraine. In my Kiev apartment, there is a door on every room. In my apartment here, only the bedrooms have doors. In my Kiev apartment, there is a small window inside each large window. In the winter, I can open this small window to get some fresh air. My apartment here doesn't have this small window. I have to open the whole window to get air. Sometimes the room becomes too cold. . . .

## Internet Activity



Use the Internet to look for apartments for rent and houses for sale in this city (or nearby suburbs). What parts of this city or the suburbs have the highest rents and housing prices?