

# UNIT 28

## There is, There are, There was, and There were

### NATURE

#### OUTCOMES

- Use *there is, there are, there was, and there were* to state facts about people and things
- Identify true and false sentences about a reading
- Complete sentences about a conversation
- Identify true and false statements about places in nature
- Give a presentation about your favorite place in nature
- Write a paragraph about a place in nature that needs protection

### STEP 1 GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

#### BEFORE YOU READ

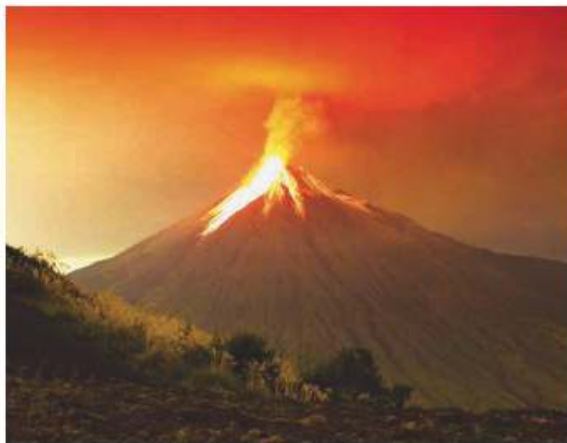
**A VOCABULARY** Study the words. Then work with a partner. Practice the conversation.



a rain forest



a waterfall



a volcano



a desert

#### Conversation

A: I'm from Brazil. There is a rain forest in Brazil.

B: Really? I'm from Saudi Arabia. There aren't any rain forests in Saudi Arabia.

**B** Work in a group. Which of the things in A are in your country? Talk about them. Complete the conversation.

A: I'm from \_\_\_\_\_. There \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

B: Really? I'm from \_\_\_\_\_. There \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.



Read this article about national parks.

## Can We Protect Nature?

There are many parts of nature. Nature is plants and animals. It is volcanoes, waterfalls, deserts, rain forests, and mountains. We farm nature's plants and hunt its animals. We also pollute<sup>1</sup> nature. So, it needs protection from us. Are there things we can do to protect nature? Yes, there are.

First, we can make more national parks. Before 1872, there weren't any national parks. Before there were national parks, people hunted, farmed, and mined<sup>2</sup> in many beautiful places. But some thought there was a need to protect these places. National parks protect nature. In 1872, Yellowstone became the world's first national park. Today, there are more than 6,000 national parks. They are in about 100 countries.

There's also a need to protect rain forests. In rain forests, there is a lot of rain, and the weather isn't very cold. Number one in the world is the Amazon Rain Forest. There are many plants and animals in it. But there are many farmers near the rain forest. They want more land, so they cut down trees. This hurts the plants and animals in the rain forest.

In the Amazon and all around the world, there are things we can do to protect nature. We can limit<sup>3</sup> farming, hunting, and pollution. We need to save the beautiful world of nature for our children and our children's children.

<sup>1</sup> *pollute*: put bad or dangerous things in nature

<sup>2</sup> *mined*: took minerals out of the earth

<sup>3</sup> *limit*: to keep at or under a certain amount



Yellowstone National Park

## AFTER YOU READ

**A COMPREHENSION** Look at the article again. Check (✓) *True* or *False*. Correct the false statements.

	True	False
1. Volcanoes and waterfalls are part of nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There were national parks before 1872.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Yellowstone was the first national park in the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Today there are more than 10,000 national parks in the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Animals don't need rain forest trees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. We need to protect the Amazon Rain Forest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B** Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](#) for more grammar in context practice.

## STEP 2 GRAMMAR PRESENTATION

### THERE IS, THERE ARE, THERE WAS, AND THERE WERE

#### Statements

Singular	Plural
There is a national park in Hawaii. There was a need to protect nature.	There are many volcanoes in the world. There were no national parks before 1872.

#### Yes/No Questions and Answers

Singular	Plural
A: Is there a waterfall in the park? B: Yes, <b>there is.</b> or No, <b>there isn't.</b>	A: Are there any national parks in the area? B: Yes, <b>there are.</b> or No, <b>there aren't.</b>
A: Was there a hotel near the park? B: Yes, <b>there was.</b> or No, <b>there wasn't.</b>	A: Were there any animals in the national park? B: Yes, <b>there were.</b> or No, <b>there weren't.</b>

#### There, It, and They

There	It and They
There is a rain forest in my country. There are many animals in rain forests.	It is very beautiful. They are wild animals.

## GRAMMAR NOTES

### 1 *There + Be: Affirmative Sentences*

Use *there* + a form of *be* to **state facts** about people or things.

Use *there is* and *there are* to state facts about people or things in the **present**. Use *there is* with singular nouns. Use *there are* with plural nouns.

Use *there was* and *there were* to state facts about people or things in the **past**. Use *there was* with singular nouns. Use *there were* with plural nouns.

**USAGE NOTE** We often use *there's* in speaking and informal writing. (*There's = There is*)

**BE CAREFUL!** Don't use a plural noun after *there's*.

**There is** a new **guide** on our tour.

**There are** over 6,000 national **parks** in the world.

**There was** an **accident** on the highway.

**There were** a lot of **people** on the safari.

**There's** a **park** ten kilometres from here.

**There are** a lot of **animals** in the zoo.

**NOT** ~~There's~~ a lot of animals in the zoo.

### 2 *There + Be: Negative Sentences*

Use *there is not* or *there isn't* to state negative facts in the **present** with singular nouns.

Use *there was not* or *there wasn't* to state negative facts in the **past** with singular nouns.

Use *there are not* or *there aren't* to state negative facts in the present with plural nouns.

Use *there were not* or *there weren't* to state negative facts in the past with plural nouns.

Use *a* or *an* with singular nouns and *any* with plural nouns.

**There isn't** a national **park** in our state.

**There wasn't** a **park** here fifty years ago.

**There aren't** any **elephants** in the national park.

**There weren't** any **cars** on the road.

There isn't **a** hotel around here.

There aren't **any** volcanoes in my country.

### 3 *Yes/No Questions with There*

To make **yes/no questions** with *there*, put *is*, *are*, *was*, or *were* before *there*.

Use *there* both in questions and **short answers**.

**Are there** (any) volcanoes in your country?

**Was there** more rain forest land in the past?

A: **Is there** a good hotel near the park?

B: Yes, **there is**. or No, **there isn't**. or No, **there's not**.

A: **Were there** many people on the safari?

B: Yes, **there were** twenty-five.



#### 4 There and It or They

Use **there** the **first time** you talk about something. When you talk about the thing again, use **it** if the noun is singular.

A: Is **there** a zoo in your city?

B: Yes, **there is**. It's a very large zoo.

Use **they** if the noun is plural.

A: Were **there** any guides on your tour?

B: Yes, **there were**. **They** were very good speakers.



### PRONUNCIATION NOTE

#### There are and They're

It is sometimes difficult to hear the difference between *there are* and the contraction *they're*.

- *There are* has two syllables.
- *They're* has one syllable.

**There are** five national parks in my state.

**They're** all beautiful and interesting.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](#) to watch the grammar presentation.

## STEP 3 FOCUSED PRACTICE

### EXERCISE 1 DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR

**A GRAMMAR NOTES 1-4** Read the conversation about Josh and Amanda's visit to Yosemite National Park. Underline *there + be*. Draw an arrow between each example of *there* and the noun or nouns it refers to.

MRS. GRANT: Hello. Are you Josh and Amanda Wang? I'm Amy Grant. Welcome. Can you please sign the guest book? There's a pen right over there.

JOSH: Thank you. We're glad there's a room for us.

MRS. GRANT: Actually, there are two rooms to choose from. We have a room on the second floor and a room on the third. The one on the third floor has a nice view of the waterfall, but there isn't an elevator.<sup>1</sup> Sorry about that.

AMANDA: Oh, that's fine. We want the one with the nice view. Is there a shower<sup>2</sup> in the room?

MRS. GRANT: No. There's just one bathroom per floor. But we don't have many guests.

<sup>1</sup> *elevator*: a machine to take people from one floor to another

<sup>2</sup> *shower*: a machine that gives water; people stand under the water to get clean



a moose



deer

**AMANDA:** Are there any animals around the hotel?

**MRS. GRANT:** Sometimes, yes. Yesterday there was a moose in the front yard, and on Friday there were two deer across the road. . . . Anyway, let's see. . . . Breakfast is from 6:30 until 9:00. There's coffee in your room, and there are also snacks. Your room is up that stairway. See you in the morning.

**JOSH:** Thanks a lot. See you then.

**B** Look at the conversation in A. Read the statements. Check (✓) *True* or *False*. Correct the false statements.

	True	False
1. Mrs. Grant's hotel has two available rooms.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There's a waterfall near the hotel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Josh and Amanda's room has a shower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. There are always animals around the hotel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. A moose visited the hotel area yesterday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Many deer visited the hotel area on Friday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Josh and Amanda can drink coffee and eat snacks in their room.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>