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# Basics. There Was, There Were, and There Will Be

Easy | A1 | Elementary | Beginners | Countable and uncountable | Future tense | Modal verb | Negation | Past tense | Sentence | Subject | Verb | Verb tense | Simple tense

**1.** Review the time-traveler's journal entries comparing the past and the future. Select ALL the sentences that are grammatically correct.

*Select all that apply.*

- **A)** In 1920, there were no flying cars.
- **B)** In 2120, there will be robots in every home.
- **C)** In 1920, there was no smartphones.
- **D)** In 2120, there were a colony on Mars.

**2.** Help Detective Crumbs complete his report about the great cookie heist by dragging the correct phrases to the blanks.

According to the witness, _____ three chocolate cookies on the plate yesterday.
Next to the empty plate, _____ a single, suspicious paw print.
However, the baker promised that _____ a fresh batch ready tomorrow morning!

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** there were
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 2**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 3**

- **A)** there will be
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there were

**3.** Read Madame Zara's party predictions. Select ALL the grammatically correct prophecies!

*Select all that apply.*

- **A)** There will be a lot of dancing in the living room.
- **B)** There will be three angry neighbors knocking on the door.
- **C)** There will are free pizzas at midnight.
- **D)** There is will be a surprise guest.

**4.** Complete the time traveler's review of their trips to the past and future by dragging the correct phrases into the blanks.

In the year 1890, _____ no electricity in that spooky old hotel.
However, _____ dozens of candles lighting up the grand dining room.
I am excited for my next trip to 2050, where I hope _____ flying cars!

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 2**

- **A)** there were
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 3**

- **A)** there will be
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there were

**5.** Help the detective review her notes after a midnight snack heist. Select ALL the sentences that correctly describe the crime scene.

*Select all that apply.*

- **A)** There were crumbs all over the counter.
- **B)** There was a half-eaten sandwich on the floor.
- **C)** There was three empty milk cartons.
- **D)** There were a huge mess near the fridge.

**6.** Fill in the blanks in the astronaut's highly official (and slightly hungry) Mars mission logbook.

During our first scan yesterday, _____ zero signs of alien life.

However, _____ a strange glowing rock near the crater that looked exactly like a potato.

By the year 2050, I am absolutely certain _____ a permanent pizza restaurant on this planet.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 2**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 3**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**7.** Help the detective finish her report by choosing the correct phrase.

When I arrived at the bakery, ___ only crumbs left on the counter.

*Select one.*

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there is
- **D)** there will be

**8.** Help the mayor write the town's monthly newsletter about the old park and the exciting new renovations! Select the correct option for each blank.

Fifty years ago, _____ a giant, terrifying dinosaur statue in the park.

Before the recent renovation, _____ too many potholes on Main Street for anyone to drive safely.

But don't worry! Next summer, _____ three new rollercoasters and a cotton candy machine!

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** there were
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 2**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 3**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**9.** Help the party planner compare last year's disastrous event with next week's grand celebration by dragging the correct phrases to the blanks.

At last year's party, _____ a terrible storm that ruined the decorations.
Worse still, _____ only five people who actually showed up!
But next Friday, _____ a massive fireworks display to amaze everyone.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 2**

- **A)** there were
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 3**

- **A)** there will be
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there were

**10.** Complete the stressed party planner's text messages to her assistant about last night's disaster and tomorrow's big event. Choose the best phrase for each gap.

At the party last night, _____ only one slice of pizza left for me!

I also can't believe _____ five angry clowns hiding in the bushes yesterday!

Tomorrow, I promise _____ enough cupcakes and security guards for everyone.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 2**

- **A)** there were
- **B)** there was
- **C)** there will be

**Blank 3**

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be

**11.** Help the camper finish his spooky campfire story by selecting the correct words.

I woke up in the middle of the night because ___ a strange scratching sound outside my tent.

*Select one.*

- **A)** there was
- **B)** there were
- **C)** there will be
- **D)** there are

**12.** Complete the event planner's excited text message with the right phrase.

Get ready for Friday! ___ a giant chocolate fountain at the party!

*Select one.*

- **A)** There was
- **B)** There were
- **C)** There will be
- **D)** There are