

Second session - lesson 42

There

When *there* begins a sentence, it usually signals that the verb comes before the subject. Because this is not standard construction, writers often fail to make the verb agree with the subject.

Despite its position in the sentence, *there* is not the subject. The verb must agree with the noun or pronoun that follows.

There *are* nine *items* on today's agenda. There *is* one *item* on today's agenda.

There *is* no *reason* to complain. There *are* no *reasons* to complain.

There *are* no *candidates* for this job. There *is* one *candidate* for this job.

There *was* one *item* left on the table. There *were* four *items* left on the table.

Linking verbs

A linking verb should agree with its subject, not with the subject complement.

The *problem was* all the cars in the parking lot.

All the *cars* in the parking lot *were* the problem.

Falling *prices are* one reason we came in under budget.

One *reason* we came in under budget *is* falling prices.

Nauseous vs. nauseated

To be nauseous is to cause nausea.

That was a nauseous airplane ride.

To be nauseated is to suffer from nausea.

I was nauseated after that airplane ride.