4.1 *There is/There are*

We use *there is* with singular nouns and *there are* with plural nouns.

GR4.1 》

Positive (+)	Negative (–)
There's an airport.	**There isn't** a hotel.
There are some restaurants.	**There aren't** any museums.
There are lots of trees.	**There aren't** a lot of trees.

Questions (?)	Short answers
Is there a train station?	Yes, **there is**./No, **there isn't**.
Are there any shops?	Yes, **there are**./No, **there aren't**.

We often use positive and negative contractions:
there is → there's but NOT ~~there're~~
there is not → there isn't
there are not → there aren't.

- We use *there is/there are* to say that something or someone exists somewhere.

  There's *a chemist on Woodstock Road.*
  There are *twenty-four rooms in the hotel.*

- We use *there is/there are* the first time we talk about something and *it is/they are* the next time.

  There's *a nice hotel in the town.* **It's** *very comfortable.*
  There are *lots of shops here, but* **they are** *all closed today.*

- We often use *there is/there are* to describe places.

  In my town **there are** *a lot of restaurants.*

- In a list of things we use *there is* if the first word is singular and *there are* if the first word is plural.

  In my city **there are** *lots of restaurants, a campsite and an old church.*
  In the hotel **there is** *a swimming pool, a hairdresser's and ninety-five bedrooms.*

- In positive sentences we usually use *some* or a number before plural nouns.

  There are **some** *glasses on the table.*
  There are **twenty** *students in the room.*

We usually use *any* before plural nouns in negative sentences and questions.
There aren't **any** *chairs.* (= *There are no chairs.*)
Are there **any** *tables?*
We also use *many* before plural nouns in negative sentences when we want to say there are fewer than we would like or expect.
There aren't **many** *tables.* (= There are some tables, but not enough or not as many as I expected.)

1 Complete the sentences with the positive, negative or question form of *there is/there are*.

1   *Is there* a hospital in your town?
2   _____ lots of hotels and a theatre.
3   _____ a library near his house?
4   _____ any trees in your garden?
5   _____ a kitchen and two bathrooms in my flat.
6   _____ any trains in my country.
7   _____ a chemist in the hospital.
8   _____ any cheap hotels in the city centre?
9   _____ a museum or a theatre here, so I think it's boring.
10 _____ a factory in my town. My father works there.

2 Use the symbols (✓) or (✗) to write positive or negative short answers.

1   Is there a toilet in the cinema?   ✓ *Yes, there is.*
2   Are there any shops open now?   ✗ *No,* _____
3   Are there any nice beaches on the island?   ✓ _____
4   Is there a theatre in your town?   ✗ _____
5   Are there lots of restaurants near here? ✓ _____
6   Is there a museum in the city centre?   ✓ _____
7   Are there any hotels?   ✗ _____
8   Are there lots of people here in the summer?   ✓ _____

3 Complete the text about Beijing's underground city, Dixia Cheng. Use *there is, there isn't, there are* or *there aren't*.

Underneath the city of Beijing in China [1] *there is* a small city. It's about 50 years old. [2] _____ any people living there now, but sometimes tourists can visit. [3] _____ lots of restaurants, schools, theatres, factories and many public places, but they are all empty. [4] _____ a big picture of Mao Zedong in nearly every large space. [5] _____ bedrooms for about 300,000 people, but they aren't comfortable. In one bedroom [6] _____ a desk and six beds. In another room [7] _____ a lot of baths. [8] _____ any windows. [9] _____ any trees or flowers. It's never very cold and never hot because it's underground. It's not popular with tourists because it's dark and dangerous. Not many people in Beijing know that [10] _____ a city under their feet.

4.2 Articles *a/an, the, –*

a/an and no article

GR4.2a 》
1 *There's **an** orange on the table.*
2 *I'm not **a** student.*
3 *She's **an** English teacher.*
4 *There's **a** nice restaurant in my street.*
5 *I have two children.*
6 *He doesn't work on Saturdays.*

• The first time we talk about one person/thing, we use *a* or *an*.
   *Jan lives in **an** old house in **a** village near Hull.*

We use *a* before consonant sounds, e.g. *a shelf, a university.*
We use *an* before vowel sounds, e.g. *an airport, an hour.*

• The first time we talk about people or things using a plural noun, we don't use an article.
   Jo knows people all over Europe.
   I like penguins.

• We also use *a/an* (singular) and no article (plural) to talk about jobs, or to talk about what things are.
   *She's **an** engineer.*   *Is that **a** new tablet?*
   Alex and Jan are journalists.   *Those are beautiful earrings!*

• We use *a* in some phrases, e.g. ***a** lot of, once **a** week.*

• We use no article…
   1 for names, cities, streets and most countries
      My name's David.   I'm from Bath.   I think this is Bond Street.
      *We live in Venezuela. (but **the** USA, **the** UK)*
   2 with days, times and meals
      I'm free on Friday at nine o'clock. I have lunch at one o'clock.

the

GR4.2b 》
1 *My friend's house is in **the** city centre.*
2 *Lima is **the** capital of Peru.*
3 *Sheena is from **the** USA.*
4 *We have dinner at seven o'clock in **the** evening.*

• We use *the* to say 'you know which one(s) I mean'. This can be …
   1 because we have already talked about it/them
      *Jan lives in an old house in a village near Hull. **The** house was built in 1485. **The** village is near a lake.*
   2 because we make it clear in the sentence, e.g. ***the** shops on my street, **the** woman who answered the phone*
   3 when there is only one, e.g. ***the** moon, **the** Burj Khalifa, **the** city centre, **the** capital of Australia, **the** Nile*

• We also use *the* for parts of the day: *in **the** morning, in **the** afternoon* (but *at night*).

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1 Complete the sentences with *a, an, the* or – (no article).
   1 What's that? It's __an__ umbrella.
   2 What's his job? He's _____ journalist.
   3 There isn't _____ office here.
   4 We live in _____ UK.
   5 They're in _____ city centre.
   6 Are you free in _____ evenings?
   7 I like _____ Brazil because I love _____ sun!
   8 I've got _____ three bedrooms.
   9 You're _____ fantastic student.
   10 There are _____ lot of shops.

2 Make sentences or questions. Add articles where necessary.
   1 There isn't / museum in / my town
      There isn't a museum in my town.
   2 There are / twenty noisy children in / garden
      _____.
   3 Is there / tourist information centre / here ?
      _____.
   4 Meet me in / city centre /at / eight o'clock
      _____.
   5 There are / lot of / shops open in / evening
      _____.
   6 There's / swimming pool in / my friend's house
      _____.
   7 Is there / toilet at / railway station ?
      _____.
   8 There isn't / bathroom in / my hotel room
      _____.

3 Complete the text with the correct articles. Sometimes no article is necessary.

My best friend lives in St Petersburg, Russia. She lives in
1 __a__ beautiful house in **2**_____ centre of the city near
3_____ Neva River. There are **4**_____ six bedrooms, three
bathrooms and **5**_____ swimming pool. Her house is near
6_____ shopping centre. I usually visit her once **7**_____
year in summer. There are lots of fantastic restaurants in
St Petersburg and we eat in **8**_____ different place every day.
We always visit **9**_____ theatre next to her house because
we both love watching **10**_____ plays. We never feel bored.