

Unit 61: EMPTY SUBJECTS

Every sentence must have a subject (Unit 1), but sometimes the subject does not mean anything.

1 *There*

We do not usually put new information at the beginning of a sentence.

So instead of:

we can write:

A toilet is plugged.

There is a plugged toilet.

Some toys were stuck in the toilet.

There were some toys stuck in the toilet.

A plumber has been called

There has been a plumber called.

A mess has been made.

There will now be a mess.

Is a mop near here?

Is there a mop near here?

A lot of work is to be done.

There is a lot of work to do.

We were six there.

There were six of us there.

NOTICE: After **there**, the verb is **be**.

2 *It*

If we want to describe an activity or an event, we often use **it** as an empty subject.

So instead of:

we can write:

Trying to fix your own toilet is disastrous. **It** is disastrous **to try** and fix your own toilet.

Calling a plumber was a good idea. **It** was a good idea **to call** a plumber.

Paying the plumber is a little painful. **It** is a little painful **to pay** the plumber.

Having a fixed toilet is great! **It** is great **to have** a fixed toilet

Studying plumbing would be a wise choice. **It** would be a wise choice **to study** plumbing.