Seumas McSporran is a very busy man. He is 60 years old and he has thirteen jobs. He is a 
postman, a policeman, a fireman, a taxi driver, a school-bus driver, a boatman, an ambulance 
man, an accountant, a barman, and an undertaker. Also he and his wife, Margaret, have a 
shop and a small hotel.

Seumas lives and works on the island of Gigha in the west of Scotland. Only 120 people live on 
Gigha but in Summer 150 tourists come by boat every day.

Every weekday Seumas gets up at 6.00 and makes breakfast for the hotel guests. At 8.00 he 
drives the island’s children to school. At 9.00 he collects the post from the boat and delivers it 
to all the houses on the island. He also delivers the beer to the island’s only pub. Then he helps 
Margaret in the shop.

He says: “Margaret likes being busy, too. We never have holidays and we don’t like watching 
television. In the evenings Margaret makes supper and I do the accounts. At 10.00 we have a 
glass of wine and then we go to bed. Perhaps our life isn’t very exciting, but we like it.”

1. Where does Seumas live?

2. How old is he?

3. How many jobs does he have?

4. What’s his wife’s name?

5. What does she do?

6. How many people live on Gigha?

7. How many tourists visit Gigha in Summer?

8. What does Seumas do in the morning?

There is – There are

“There is” y “There are” son formas impersonales presentes del verbo “TO BE” y corresponden al 
impersonal español “HAY”. A menudo estas formas aparecen al comienzo de la oración, siendo “there 
is” la forma singular y “there are” la forma plural. Estas estructuras nos permiten entre otras cosas 
describir lugares o hablar de la existencia de algo o alguien. Las preposiciones de posición se
encuentran íntimamente relacionadas con “there is” y “there are”. Estas formas impersonales van siempre acompañadas por sustantivos.

EJ. There is a parking space near the bank.

There are two computers in the office.

Estas mismas oraciones en forma interrogativa debemos formularlas así

Is there a parking space near the bank?    Yes, there is ( No, there isn´t)
Are there two computers in the office?       Yes, there are ( No, there aren´t)

Vemos que el verbo to be se coloca al principio de la oración.

En el caso de la forma negativa decimos

There is not (There isn´t ) a man outside the room.

There are not (There aren´t) ten secretaries in our school.

Las formas contraídas son las más usuales en el lenguaje hablado.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER

1. Is there a cup here?                                           A) Yes, there is one          B) Yes, it is
2. Are there 20 pencils in this box?                      A) Yes, there are ten.       B) Yes, there are.
3. Is there a computer in the library?                   A) Yes, you are                B) Yes, there is.
4. Are there 20 cigarettes in this packet?            A) No, there aren´t            B) No, there isn´t.
5. Is there a book about computers in the library?  A) Yes, there is               B) Yes, there are.

COMPLETE THE DIALOGUE WITH: There is, there are, there isn´t, there aren´t, is there? or are there?

Steve: How many students........................................in your class, Jill?
Jill: ........................................fourteen.

Steve: ........................................any students from Venezuela?
Jill: No, ........................................any from Venezuela. Not in my class.

Steve: Oh, I ´m surprised. ........................................usually some students from Venezuela.
Jill: ........................................some students from Asia. ..............................a student from Japan, and ..............................a student from China, too.

Steve: And........................................a student from Thailand this time?
Jill: No, ........................................ But ........................................one from Argentina.

Steve: But I expect........................................some German students.
Jill: No, ........................................But ........................................one from Brazil.

Steve: ........................................a student from Sweden?
Jill: Yes, ........................................She is a very pretty girl