Worksheet GB No. 49

Grammar Bite 49: "it is or there is? ✕ ✕

(✕ = Basic ✕✕ = Intermediate ✕✕✕ = Advanced)

Activity

Put one of these phrases in each blank:

EXISTENCE or IDENTIFICATION?

there is   it is (it's)

1 "Is that Helen and Mark?" "No, _____ Helen and Susan!"

2 Because of the recent downturn, _____ a significant risk growth will not be so high.

3 "Who is that?" " _____ me!"

4 I think _____ no doubt that Peter is on the right track

5 You may think this is a basket, but actually _____ a lamp.

EXISTENCE, IDENTIFICATION OR DESCRIPTION?

there is   there are   it is (it's)   they are

6 'Don't you see, _____ some things I have to know?'

7 English people think that _____ free, but they're not.

8 As well as the two 'big Cs', coronaries and cancer, _____ a whole group of other degenerative diseases like diabetes,

9 I should explain that _____ a few additions to the original game which add a little spice to the proceedings

10 "Look over there, _____ the two guys we saw in the pantomime!"

there is   there are   it is (it's)   they are

11 The book is short, but _____ very worthwhile.

12 Some have done well, but _____ the ones who have more land, and access to capital

13 "A car is coming round the corner... it's OK, _____ the police."

14 At work _____ a great deal of empiricism — sometimes it becomes almost a mystique

15 Amongst the members _____ those who believe we should resist change.

Notes

There is, it is and *they are*

Three different meanings

1 *There is* (EXISTENCE)

We use *there is* and *there are* to say that things exist, that something (or someone) is present or happened:

There is a cafe over there; I want a coffee!
There are about 180 'safe' languages in the world.
There was a huge tsunami in Japan in 2011.

2 *It is* (IDENTIFICATION)

We use *it is* to identify someone or something:

(Knock knock) *"Who is it?" "It's me!"*
"What's that?" "It's a leopard."

We use *it is* for simgular and plural:

"Who's that?" "It's Mike and Sue."

For identification, we use *it is*, not ~~I am~~ or ~~they are~~.

3 *It is* and *they are* (DESCRIPTION)

We also use *it is*, and *they are*, to describe people and things:

It is: for things only
They are: for things and people:

It's red.
They're Korean.