

### Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pairwork

### Language Focus

There is/are...

There isn't/aren't...

Is/Are there...?

### Aim

To describe famous cities using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'

### Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students and cut as indicated.

### Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

### Time

30 minutes

### Introduction

In this 'There is/are' teaching activity, students play a guessing game where they describe famous cities to each other using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'

### Procedure

Write a famous city that the students know well on the board. Ask the students to describe the city with 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'. Write their descriptions on the board and review the language.

Next, think of a city and write it on a piece of paper. Ask the students to guess the name of the city by asking questions with 'Is/Are there...?' Keep answering their questions until they guess the name of the city.

After that, divide the students into pairs (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding A or B worksheet.

Tell the students not to show their worksheets to each other.

Student A begins by using the prompts on the worksheet to describe city number one with 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'. The student can also use their own ideas to help their partner guess the city.

Student B listens and tries to guess the name of the city. The student can also ask questions using 'Is/Are there...?' to help guess the answer.

Encourage the students to use quantifiers in their sentences and questions, e.g. a lot of, many, a few, etc.

When Student B has guessed all four cities, the students swap roles.


When everyone has finished, have a class feedback session. Find out which cities were easy and difficult to guess and whether the students learnt anything new about the cities.

Finally, have the pairs write their own description of a famous city. Pairs then take it in turns to read their descriptions and the class tries to guess the name of each city.


**Student A**

A. Describe the four cities to your partner using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'  
Answer any questions your partner has to help them guess the names of the cities


**1. Bangkok**

temples	tuk-tuks	
a Grand Palace	no mountains	


**2. Venice**

old buildings	gondolas	
canals	not many roads	

**3. Amsterdam**

windmills	tulips	
canals	no big mountains	

**4. New York**

skyscrapers	no beach	
a famous statue	yellow taxis	


B. Listen to your partner's descriptions and guess the names of the cities. If need be, ask questions with 'Is/Are there...?' to help you guess.




**Student B**

A. Listen to your partner's descriptions and guess the names of the cities. If need be, ask questions with 'Is/Are there...?' to help you guess.


**1. Singapore**

tall buildings	no litter	
a port	a garden by the bay	


**2. Dubai**

modern buildings	sand	
artificial islands	not many trees	

**3. London**

red buses	no beach	
a big clock	underground trains	

**4. Sydney**

beaches	a harbor	
an opera house	no mountains	

B. Describe the four cities to your partner using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'  
Answer any questions your partner has to help them guess the names of the cities