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**Level : L1**

**Module :CWE**

**Lecture 9**

**Opinion Paragraphs: Use of ‘there is’/ ‘there are’ and ‘because’/ ‘because of’**

**Using ‘there is’ / ‘there are’**

In opinion paragraphs, writers frequently use ***there is***/***there are*** to introduce facts as in the following examples:

* There is a very famous place for painters in Montmartre in Paris.
* There are many roman monuments in Tipaza.

***There is*** and ***there are*** are used to refer to the existence or presence of someone or something.

* There is a baker at the corner of the street.
* There are a lot of novels on my bookshelf.
* There are twenty students in this group.
* There is a file in your office. The boss gave it this morning. (Not: ~~It is a file in~~

~~your office~~).

The use of the phrases ***there is/ there are*** depends on the noun or noun phrase following it in a statement. Look at the following examples:

* There are harvest festivals every autumn.
* There is a picturesque village in the mountains near Mexico City.
* There are no mosquitoes at this altitude.

It should be noted that while ***there are*** is used with plural nouns, ***there is*** is used with singular and uncountable nouns.

* There are tall pine trees lining this street. (plural noun)
* There is a beautiful forest near my home town. (singular noun)
* There is water beyond the mountains. (uncountable noun)
* There is much rain in winter. (uncountable noun)

**No** is used after ***there is/there are*** to express a negative fact.

Look at the following examples:

* There is no book on your desk.
* There is no snow in this region.
* There are no restaurants in my village.

**Using ‘*Because’* / ‘*Because of’***

***Because*** and ***because of*** are used to give reasons in opinion paragraphs. Look at the following examples:

* She didn’t attend the conference **because** she was ill.
* She didn’t attend the conference **because of** her illness.

The difference between the two sentences is that in the first example ***because*** is followed by a complete sentence with its own subject and verb (because she was ill: subordinate clause), in the second example ***because of*** is followed by a noun phrase (her illness).

Note that ***because*** and ***because of*** like other conjunctions may be placed either at the beginning or the middle of the sentence.

When ***because*** is used at the beginning, a comma is used to separate the two clauses as in the following examples:

* **Because** she was ill, she didn’t attend the conference.
* **Because** they don’t have time to go to travel agencies, people nowadays buy plane tickets on the internet.

When ***because*** is used in the middle, no comma is needed.

* Tourists prefer to travel by night ***because*** such travels are not very expensive.
* People nowadays buy plane tickets on the internet ***because*** they don’t have time to go to travel agencies.

When ***because of*** comes at the beginning of the sentence, a comma is used.

* **Because of** her illness, she didn’t attend the conference
* ***Because of*** lack of time, people nowadays buy plane tickets on the internet.

When ***because of*** comes in the middle of the sentence, no comma is needed.

* The festival was postponed ***because of*** the manifestations.
* The match was cancelled ***because of*** the bad weather.

**Tutorial (TD) 9: Use of ‘there is’/ ‘there are’ and ‘because’/ ‘because of’**

**Exercise n°1:** Put in ***is*** or ***are*** in the blanks to complete the sentences below.

1-There ***is*** a parade of children holding flowers.

2-There … a lot of music in the streets.

3-There … many nightclubs.

4-There … not many cars on the road, but you might see bicycles.

5-There … no airport in my city.

6-There… not much wind, so people prefer this beach.

**Exercise n°2:** Rewrite the following sentences using ***there is*** or ***there are***.

Example: Bad weather is not in the South.

 ***There is*** no bad weather in the South.

1. Houses are not on the island.
2. Colorful birds are in the jungle.
3. Many international restaurants are downtown.
4. Many vendors are on the beach.
5. A lot of good seafood is along the coast.

**Exercise n°3:** Use ***because*** or ***because of*** to complete sentence below.

1-This city is a good place for young people ***because of*** the world-class nightclubs.

2-There is a lot of diversity ……….many people from Europe and Asia moved to Brazil during the past two centuries.

3-Many people retire to warmer climates ……….the weather.

4-Gardening is popular there ……….the valley has ideal conditions for roses.

5-It is easy to get around the city ……….the government has improved the public transportation system.

6-A lot of people go there ……….the gourmet food.

**Exercise n°4:** Finish each sentence with a phrase or a statement of your own.

1-I want to live in a big city ***because of*** the cultural life.

2-My city is interesting because of ……….

3-My city is interesting because ……….

4-I would like to live in a small town because ……….

5-I do not want to live in a big city because of ……….

6-The best city to live in is ……….because of……….

**Exercise n°5:** Choose an ending (a-e) for each beginning (1-5) and use ***because*** or ***because of*** to obtain correct sentences.

1-They were looking for a Japanese restaurant.      a-His strange accent

2-The government banned that movie**.**                    b-The harsh weather conditions

3-All the flights were cancelled.                              c-He wants to feel independent.

4-Jim is trying to find a place of his own.               d-The public opinion was against it.

5-I couldn’t understand him.                                   e-They wanted to eat sushi for dinner.

**Exercise n°6:** Read the following paragraph and correct mistakes with ***there is/there are*** and ***because/because of***. There are seven mistakes.

I was very sad when I had to leave Rio de Janeiro because it is the best place on earth. Rio is important to me because of my family still lives there. However, I think anyone who moves there will agree it is a wonderful place. That is because Rio has something for every personality. First there is the people. Rio is famous because of many beautiful people live there, especially in the beach neighborhoods, such as Ipanama. The city is very fun during the Carnaval when Brazilians dress up in costumes and dance in the streets and nightclubs. Rio is also beautiful because its location. The city is on the Atlantic Ocean. There is a lot of beaches, and they are full of activity every day. The scenery is spectacular as well. You can see great geological formations, such as the granite mountain called Sugar Loaf, and on another peak named Corcovado, you can see an enormous statue that looks over the city. Brazil also has many varieties of music because the many cultures and traditions. Finally, there are also a place for people who enjoy tranquillity. The botanical gardens are filled with exotic varieties of plants and animals. So Rio de Janeiro is a place with many different faces. It can be beautiful, crazy, and peaceful depending on your mood.