

6. Existential, locational and possessive constructions

Existential and locational sentences in English also use the copular verb *be*, 'ser'/'estar'. Existentials are formed with the demonstrative *there* 'allí', plus the copula followed by an indefinite noun phrase. Normally a locative phrase follows the noun phrase:

(58) DEMO COP NP (LOC)
 [+indef]
 There is a cat under the table
 DEMO ser:3SG:NOPAS INDEF gato abajo DEF mesa
 'Hay un gato debajo la mesa.'

(59) DEMO COP NP (LOC)
 [+indef]
 There are lion-s in Africa
 DEMO ser:PL:NOPAS león-PL en Africa
 'Hay leones en Africa.'

Locational sentences consist of a noun phrase, the copula and a locational phrase:

(60) NP COP LOC
 [def/indef]
 The cat is under the table.
 DEF gato ser:3SG:NOPAS abajo DEF mesa
 'El gato está debajo la mesa.'

(61) Three lion-s are in that cage. 'Three lions are in that cage.'
 tres león-PL ser:PL:NOPAS en DEMO2 jaula

Possessive sentences in English are formed with the irregular verb *have* 'tener'. The possessor is the subject of the sentence and the possessed item follows the verb:

(62) That cat **has** flea-s 'Ese gato tiene pulgas.'
 DEMO2 gato tener:3SG:NOPAS pulga-PL

(63) Lion-s **have** large paw-s. 'Los leones tienen patas grandes.'
 león-PL tener:PL:NOPAS grande pata-PL