

## Difference between È and C'È

Let's start with **È**

**È** is the third person singular of the verb **ESSERE** (to be). It basically means "**is**" (and it covers all meanings such as "*he is*", "*she is*", and "*it is*").

We use it any time with want to **DESCRIBE** something, as "*being*"... whatever!

### ▷ SOME EXAMPLES:

*Marco è alto*

Marco is tall

*Marco è mio amico*

Marco is my friend

*Questo vino è buono*

This wine is good

*Qual è il tuo numero di telefono?*

What is your phone number?

So, what's **C'È** and when to use it?

**C'È** literally means "*there is*", and it's related to **CI SONO**, which means "*there are*".

We use **C'È** whenever we are talking about the presence /existence of something.

C'È is **NOT** used to describe things.

## ▷ SOME EXAMPLES:

*C'è una birra in frigo*

There's a beer in the fridge

*Non c'è spazio per te*

There's no room for you

*C'è Daniele?*

Is Daniele there? (as in "is he home?", or similar)

*Oggi c'è alta marea*

Today (there) is high tide

*C'è un dottore?*

Is there a doctor?

## **Sometimes it can be a bit tricky...**

Since **Italian** and **English** are two **different** languages, sometimes things just don't work the same way! That's when it comes down to paying attention to how Italians say certain things and getting used to it!

## ▷ SOME EXAMPLES:

*A Pisa c'è la torre*

In Pisa there is the Tower (The Tower is in Pisa)

*Per cena c'è la pizza*

For dinner there is pizza (we're having pizza for dinner)

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*Oggi c'è il sole*

Today it's sunny

*In macchina c'è una giacca, se la vuoi*

In the car there's a jacket, if you want it

## To sum things up

**È** is used to **DESCRIBE** (the qualities of something)

**C'È** is used to talk about the **PRESENCE / EXISTENCE** of something

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## ▷ EXERCISE

Translate the first group of sentences into Italian and the second group into English.

1. Sara is my sister

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2. There's a book on the table

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3. The book is on the table

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4. Today there is no class

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5. This book is fantastic!

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6. Il gelato in Italia è buonissimo

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7. Oggi a Roma c'è una mostra interessante

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8. C'è una macchia sulla mia maglietta...

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9. Stasera in televisione c'è "*Il Commissario Rex*"



10. La musica italiana è molto melodica



## ▷ ANSWERS

Here are some possible translations for the exercises.

1. Sara è mia sorella
2. C'è un libro sul tavolo
3. Il libro è sul tavolo
4. Oggi non c'è lezione
5. Questo libro è fantastico!
6. Ice cream in Italy is excellent
7. Today there's a very interesting exhibition in Rome
8. There's a stain on your t-shirt...
9. "*Il Commissario Rex*" is on tonight
10. Italian music is very melodic

## ▷ YOUR NOTES