There was – There were. Affirmative, negative and interrogative form

Afirmative form	Negative form	Interrogative form
We use *there* + *was* when we talk about singular nouns.	We use *there* + *was* + *not* when we talk about singular nouns.	We use *was* + *there* + *a/any* when we talk about singular nouns.
There was a bank downtown.	*There was not* a bank downtown.	*Was there* a bank downtown?
	Contraction: *There wasn't* a bank downtown	Short answer: Yes, there was. or No, *there wasn't*.
We use *there* + *were* when we talk about plural nouns.	We use *there* + *were* + *not* when we talk about plural nouns.	We use *were* + *there* + *any* when we talk about plural nouns.
There were three parks downtown.	*There were not* three parks downtown.	*Were there* any parks downtown?
	Contraction: *There weren't* three parks downtown.	Short answer: Yes, there were. or No, *there weren't*