Data centres in space? Some people say no

Listening + Reading + Grammar: *there is / there are*

1 KEY VOCABULARY

data centre	*n.*	centro de datos
satellite	*n.*	satélite
rocket	*n.*	cohete
space	*n.*	espacio
pollution	*n.*	contaminación
petition	*n.*	petición (firmada)
government agency	*n.*	agencia del gobierno
ozone layer	*n.*	capa de ozono
risk	*n.*	riesgo
bright / dark	*adj.*	brillante / oscuro

2 USEFUL PHRASES & EXPRESSIONS

- **I think... because...** → *Creo que... porque...*
- **Some people say no.** → *Algunas personas dicen que no.*
- **We need to study the risks first.** → *Necesitamos estudiar los riesgos primero.*
- **Rockets make a lot of pollution.** → *Los cohetes generan mucha contaminación.*
- **I agree with Carla.** → *Estoy de acuerdo con Carla.*
- **Is there a data centre in your city?** → *¿Hay un centro de datos en tu ciudad?*

6 EVERYDAY LIFE INSIGHT

★ **Technology and our planet**

Some companies want to put data centres in space. In July 2026, a group of environmental and scientific organisations asked the FCC, a US government agency, to study the risks before it gives permission. New technology is exciting, but people also ask: is it good for the planet?

3 THE KEY POINT

Use **there is** for one thing or uncountable nouns (sun, pollution) and **there are** for two or more things.

+ **There is** sun all day in space. **There are** more satellites in the sky.

– **There isn't** a data centre in space today. **There aren't** any computers in this room.

? **Is there** a data centre in your city? **Are there** many satellites?

4 QUICK PRACTICE

Complete with is, are, isn't or aren't.

1. There ___ a lot of satellites in the sky. ✔
2. There ___ a lot of light in my city. ✔
3. There ___ any stars tonight. ✘
4. ___ there a computer room in your office?

5 ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Answers: 1 are · 2 is · 3 aren't · 4 Is

Many things (satellites, stars) → **are / aren't**. One thing or uncountable nouns (light, a computer room) → **is / isn't**. In questions, the verb goes first: *Is there...?*

Today's resource: Coalition calls for rigorous federal review of space-based data center proposals (Earthjustice) · https://earthjustice.org/press/2026/coalition-calls-for-rigorous-federal-review-of-space-based-data-center-proposals

> *New ideas are exciting — good questions make them better.*



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