

It comes a time when...?

or

There comes a time when...?



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ANTICIPATORY IT

~~X It comes a time when...~~

We can use it to introduce or 'anticipate' the subject or object of a sentence, especially when the subject or object of the sentence is a clause. Most commonly, such clauses are **to + infinitive** and **that clauses**.

We also call this use of it a 'dummy' subject, since the real subject is another part of the sentence.

- **It's** good **that** she's doing more exercise.
- **It's** unlikely **that** she'll arrive on time.
- **It was** nice **to talk** with them again.
- **It's** always interesting **to find out** about your family history.

THERE

✓ There comes a time when...

The word "THERE" may be used as a pronoun to introduce a **noun** or a **phrase** and can be followed by verbs other than be, but this has quite a literary or formal style.

there lives/follows/comes/exists, etc:

- **There comes a time** in everyone's life **when** a big decision has to be taken.
- **There came** a point **when** his patience ran out.
- Long ago **there lived** a beautiful princess.
- **There followed** a short silence.
- **There remains** nothing left to do.
- When I was younger, **there existed** a great feeling of community in our town.