

Focus: Somebody/Someone/Something, Anybody/Anyone/Anything, Anywhere, Offers and requests, Questions where the answer is expected to be 'yes', General inquiries with unknown existence, Free choice usage, Any + noun, Open choice compounds (anywhere, anybody), If + any

1. The Basics: Some vs. Any

Generally, we use **some** (and its compounds) in affirmative sentences and **any** (and its compounds) in negatives and questions.

- **Affirmative (+):** There is **someone** at the door. / I need **some** time.
- **Negative (-):** I didn't meet **anyone** new. / We don't have **any** milk.
- **Questions (?):** Is there **anything** to eat? / Do you have **any** ideas? (General inquiry: We don't know the answer).

Compounds:

- **People:** Someone / Somebody vs. Anyone / Anybody
- **Things:** Something vs. Anything
- **Places:** Somewhere vs. Anywhere

2. "Some" in Questions (Exceptions)

We normally use *any* for questions. However, we use **some** (and its compounds) in questions when:

A. We Offer or Request something:

- *Offer:* Would you like **something** to drink?
- *Request:* Can I have **some** water, please?

B. We expect the answer to be "Yes" (Assumption):

- *Context:* You see empty chocolate wrappers next to your friend.
- *Question:* Have you eaten **some** chocolate? (I assume you have).
- *Question:* Is there **someone** waiting for you? (You look like you are waiting).

3. "Any" for Free Choice ("It Doesn't Matter Which")

We can use **any**, **anything**, **anywhere**, or **anyone** in affirmative (+) sentences when the specific item or person does not matter. It implies "free choice."

- **Any + Noun:** You can catch **any** bus; they all go to the center. (It doesn't matter which bus).
- **Anywhere:** Sit **anywhere** you like. (It doesn't matter where).
- **Anyone/Anybody:** Ask **anyone**; they will all tell you the same thing.

4. "Any" with Conditionals (If)

We often use **any** and its compounds after **if**. This is because "if" creates a hypothetical or uncertain situation, similar to a question.

- **If + Any:** If you have **any** problems, call me.
- **If + Anyone:** If **anyone** calls, tell them I'm busy.
- **If + Anything:** Let me know **if anything** changes.

Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct indefinite pronoun or quantifier (e.g., **some, any, someone, anyone, something, anything, somewhere, anywhere**). Pay attention to the context clues provided in brackets.

1. I am bored. I want to go _____ interesting this weekend. (Affirmative - Place)
2. _____ stole my wallet while I was on the train! (Affirmative - Person)
3. I haven't got _____ money left until pay day. (Negative - Quantity)
4. You look hungry. Would you like _____ to eat? (Question - Offer)
5. You can park _____ on this street; there are no restrictions. (Affirmative - It doesn't matter where)
6. Please check _____ the windows are closed before you leave. (Conditional / If)
7. Did you go _____ nice for your holidays? (Question - General inquiry regarding place)
8. Can I have _____ sugar in my tea, please? (Question - Request)
9. I didn't know _____ at the party, so I left early. (Negative - Person)
10. If _____ finds a set of keys, please bring them to the reception. (Conditional - Person)
11. Is there _____ calling me? I thought I heard my name. (Question - Expecting 'Yes')
12. I am free all day. You can call me at _____ time. (Affirmative - It doesn't matter when)
13. She refused to say _____ to the police. (Negative - Thing)
14. Why are you looking under the bed? Have you lost _____ ? (Question - Expecting 'Yes' / Assumption)
15. Does _____ know the answer to question number five? (Question - General inquiry regarding person)

Answer Key

1. somewhere
2. Someone / Somebody
3. any
4. something
5. anywhere
6. if
7. anywhere
8. some
9. anyone / anybody
10. anyone / anybody
11. someone / somebody
12. any
13. anything
14. something
15. anyone / anybody