Negation & Determiners: No, None, and Any

> **Focus: no + noun usage, none as a standalone pronoun, none of + plural/pronoun structures, Usage at the start of sentences, Usage after 'be' and 'have', Forming short answers to questions, Transforming 'no' to 'not + any', Transforming 'nothing' to 'not + anything', Avoiding double negatives, Using they/them/their with nobody/no-one**

1. No vs. Not ... Any

We use **no** and **any** to talk about quantity or absence. They are determiner structures that often have the same meaning but different grammar.

- **Structure A (Positive Verb + No):** Use **no** with a noun and a positive verb.
  - *Example:* "I **have no** money." (More emphatic)
  - *Example:* "There **is no** milk in the fridge."
- **Structure B (Negative Verb + Any):** Use **not** (n't) with the verb and **any** with the noun.
  - *Example:* "I **don't have any** money."
  - *Example:* "There **isn't any** milk in the fridge."

Rule: Never use *no* with a negative verb (Double Negative).

- *Incorrect:* I don't have no time.
- *Correct:* I have **no** time OR I **don't** have **any** time.

2. None and None of

- **None (Standalone Pronoun):** used without a noun. It often acts as a short answer.
  - *Q:* "How much coffee is left?"
  - *A:* "**None**." (NOT: *No.*)
- **None of + Determiner + Noun/Pronoun:**
  - *Example:* "**None of the** students passed the test."
  - *Example:* "**None of us** wanted to leave."
  - *Note:* When *None of* is the subject, the verb can be singular (formal) or plural (informal). "None of them **is/are** coming."

3. Negative Compounds (Nothing, Nobody, Nowhere)

These words follow the same rules as *no* vs. *any*.

Category	Positive Verb + Negative Word	Negative Verb + Any- Word
Things	I saw **nothing**.	I **didn't** see **anything**.
People	**Nobody** came.	**Nobody didn't** come (Incorrect).
Places	They went **nowhere**.	They **didn't** go **anywhere**.

4. Special Rules

- **Subject Agreement:** *Nobody/No one* takes a **singular** verb.
  - *Example:* "Nobody **is** listening." (NOT: *are listening*)
- **Pronoun Reference:** When referring back to *nobody/no one/everybody*, use **they/them/their**.
  - *Example:* "Nobody called, did **they**?"
  - *Example:* "No one lost **their** ticket."
- **Any- for Indifference:** *Any* can mean "it doesn't matter which."
  - *Example:* "You can sit **anywhere**." (It doesn't matter where).
  - *Example:* "Call me **any** time."

Practice Exercises

Instruction: Complete the sentences using *no, none, any, nothing, anything, nobody, anybody, nowhere,* or *anywhere*. Pay close attention to whether the verb is positive or negative.

1. I wanted to buy some bread, but there was _____ left in the shop.
2. "How many questions did you answer correctly?" "_____."
3. I pressed the button, but _____ happened.
4. She didn't tell _____ about her secret plan.
5. _____ of the information you gave me was correct.
6. The room was empty. There was _____ there.
7. We decided to stay home because we had _____ else to go.
8. I don't have _____ idea what you are talking about.
9. "Who is in the bathroom?" "_____ , it's empty."
10. _____ knows the answer to that difficult question, do they?
11. You can catch _____ bus. They all go to the city center.
12. There is _____ time to lose. We must hurry!
13. I didn't eat _____ for breakfast because I wasn't hungry.
14. _____ of my friends could come to the party, so I was alone.
15. He has _____ money, so he can't buy the ticket.

Instruction: Rewrite the sentences so they mean the same as the first sentence. Use the word in **bold**.

16. There isn't anything in the box. **(nothing)**

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17. I have no time to help you. **(any)**

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18. She didn't meet anybody at the station. **(nobody)**

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19. There are no clouds in the sky. **(any)**

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20. We didn't go anywhere special for the holidays. **(nowhere)**

Answer Key

1. **none** (Standalone pronoun referring to bread)
2. **None** (Short answer)
3. **nothing** (Positive verb *happened*)
4. **anybody / anyone** (Negative auxiliary *didn't*)
5. **None** (Followed by *of the*)
6. **nobody / no one** (Positive verb *was*)
7. **nowhere** (Positive verb *had*)
8. **any** (Negative auxiliary *don't*)
9. **Nobody / No one** (Short answer regarding people)
10. **Nobody / No one** (Subject of the sentence, followed by singular verb *knows*)
11. **any** (Indifference – it doesn't matter which bus)
12. **no** (Positive verb *is*)
13. **anything** (Negative auxiliary *didn't*)
14. **None** (Followed by *of my*)
15. **no** (Positive verb *has*)
16. **There is nothing in the box.**
17. **I don't have any time to help you.** (or *I haven't got any time...*)
18. **She met nobody at the station.**
19. **There aren't any clouds in the sky.**
20. **We went nowhere special for the holidays.**