

Some and any

A In general we use **some** (also **somebody/someone/something**) in positive sentences and **any** (also **anybody** etc.) in negative sentences:

some

- We bought **some** flowers.
- He's busy. He's got **some** work to do.
- There's **somebody** at the door.
- I want **something** to eat.

any

- We didn't buy **any** flowers.
- He's lazy. He **never** does **any** work.
- There isn't **anybody** at the door.
- I don't want **anything** to eat.

We use **any** in the following sentences because the meaning is negative:

- She went out **without any** money. (she **didn't** take **any** money with her)
- He **refused** to eat **anything**. (he **didn't** eat **anything**)
- It's a very easy exam. **Hardly anybody** fails. (= almost **nobody** fails)

B We use both **some** and **any** in questions. We use **some/somebody/something** to talk about a person or thing that we know exists, or we think exists:

- Are you waiting for **somebody**? (I think you are waiting for somebody)

We use **some** in questions when we offer or ask for things:

- Would you like **something** to eat? (there is something to eat)
- Can I have **some** sugar, please? (there is probably some sugar I can have)

But in most questions, we use **any**. We do not know if the thing or person exists:

- 'Do you have **any** luggage?' 'No, I don't.'
- I can't find my bag. Has **anybody** seen it?

C We often use **any** after **if**:

- If anyone** has **any** questions, I'll be pleased to answer them.
- Let me know **if** you need **anything**.

The following sentences have the idea of **if**:

- I'm sorry for **any** trouble I've caused. (= if I have caused any trouble)
- Anyone** who wants to do the exam should tell me by Friday. (= if there is anyone)

D We also use **any** with the meaning 'it doesn't matter which':

- You can take **any** bus. They all go to the centre. (= it doesn't matter which bus you take)
- 'Sing a song.' 'Which song shall I sing?' '**Any** song. I don't mind.' (= it doesn't matter which song)
- Come and see me **any** time you want.

We use **anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere** in the same way:

- We forgot to lock the door. **Anybody** could have come in.
- 'Let's go out somewhere.' 'Where shall we go?' '**Anywhere**. I just want to go out.'

Compare **something** and **anything**:

- A: I'm hungry. I want **something** to eat.
B: What would you like?
A: I don't mind. **Anything**. (= it doesn't matter what)

E **Somebody/someone/anybody/anyone** are singular words:

- Someone** is here to see you.

But we use **they/them/their** after these words:

- Someone** has forgotten **their** umbrella. (= his or her umbrella)
- If **anybody** wants to leave early, **they** can. (= he or she can)

Exercises

85.1 Put in **some** or **any**.

- 1 We didn't buy any flowers.
- 2 Tonight I'm going out with friends of mine.
- 3 A: Have you seen good movies recently?
B: No, I haven't been to the cinema for ages.
- 4 I didn't have money, so I had to borrow
- 5 Can I have milk in my coffee, please?
- 6 We wanted to buy grapes, but they didn't have in the shop.
- 7 He did everything himself – without help.
- 8 You can use this card to withdraw money at cash machine.
- 9 I'd like information about places of interest in the town.
- 10 With the special tourist train ticket, you can travel on train you like.
- 11 Those apples look nice. Shall we buy ?

85.2 Complete the sentences with **some-** or **any-** + **-body/-thing/-where**.

- 1 I was too surprised to say anything.
- 2 There's at the door. Can you go and see who it is?
- 3 Does mind if I open the window?
- 4 I wasn't feeling hungry, so I didn't eat
- 5 You must be hungry. Why don't I get you to eat?
- 6 Quick, let's go! There's coming and I don't want to see us.
- 7 Sarah was upset about and refused to talk to
- 8 This machine is very easy to use. can learn to use it very quickly.
- 9 There was hardly on the beach. It was almost deserted.
- 10 'Do you live near Joe?' 'No, he lives in another part of town.'
- 11 'Where shall we go on holiday?' 'Let's go warm and sunny.'
- 12 They stay at home all the time. They never seem to go
- 13 I'm going to a meeting now. If needs me, tell them I'll be back at 11.30.
- 14 Why are you looking under the bed? Have you lost ?
- 15 This is a no-parking area. who parks here will have to pay a fine.
- 16 Jonathan stood up and left the room without saying
- 17 'Can I ask you ?' 'Sure. What do you want to ask?'
- 18 Sue is very secretive. She never tells (2 words)

85.3 Complete the sentences. Use **any** (+ noun) or **anybody/anything/anywhere**.

- 1 Which bus do I have to catch?
- 2 Which day shall I come?
- 3 What do you want to eat?
- 4 Where shall I sit?
- 5 What sort of job are you looking for?
- 6 What time shall I call you tomorrow?
- 7 Who shall I invite to the party?
- 8 Which newspaper shall I buy?

- Any bus. They all go to the centre.
- I don't mind.
- I don't mind. Whatever you have.
- It's up to you. You can sit you like.
- It doesn't matter.
- Leave a message if I don't answer and I'll get back to you.
- I don't mind. you like.
- See what they have in the shop.