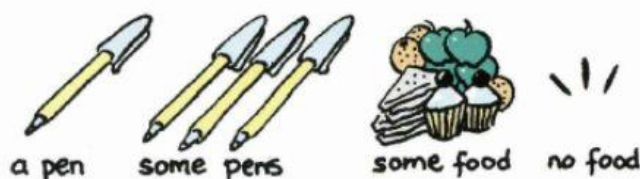


A, some, any, no

1 Look at these pictures:



2 We use a with singular countable nouns (e.g. pen, car, friend):

I bought a pen yesterday.

Do you have a car?

He doesn't have a friend.

(For countable and uncountable nouns, see Unit 53.)

3 We use some or any with plural countable nouns (pens, friends, books):

I bought some new pens yesterday.

John doesn't have any friends.

Do you have any books about Africa?

4 We use some or any with uncountable nouns (e.g. money, information, advice, news, music, coffee, milk, toast, bread, food, water, snow):

I haven't got any money.

Did the teacher give you any advice?

I would like some coffee, please.

5 POSITIVE

We normally use some in positive sentences:

She took some photos.

I'd like some information, please.

But we sometimes use any like this:

You can leave at any time. (= It doesn't matter when you leave.)

Take any book. (= It doesn't matter which book you take.)

6 NEGATIVE

We usually use any in negative sentences:

I didn't see any good films last year.

We haven't got any food.

We sometimes use no, instead of not ... any:

I'm sorry, there are no buses to the museum.

The shops are shut, and we've got no food.

7 QUESTIONS

We use any in questions:

Do you speak any Russian?

But we use some in requests:

Can you give me some information?

We also use some when we offer something:

Would you like some coffee?

Practice

A Put the words in brackets () in the correct order to make sentences.

► A: Can I help you, sir?

B: *Yes, please. I'd like to buy some furniture for my living-room.*

(to buy – for my living – room. – furniture – I'd – some – like)

1 A: Shall we go into town this afternoon?

B: *Why?*

(shops open today. – any – There – aren't)

2 A:

(Can I – cheese, please? – some – have)

B: Of course. How much would you like?

3 A:

(any – in Cambridge? – museums – Are there)

B: I don't know. We can find out at the Tourist Information Centre.

- 4 A: I'd like to go to Bristol, please.
B: Certainly, madam.
(any – You – train from platform 9. – can take)
- 5 A: I'd love to go to South America.
B: Really?
(you speak – Spanish? – Do – any)
- 6 A: I'm hungry! We haven't eaten all day. Look at that wonderful restaurant!
B: Wait a moment!
(money – with us. – We haven't – any – brought)

B Make the following statements negative. Use *not ... any*.

- ▶ We've got some photos of our holiday.
We haven't got any photos of our holiday.
- 1 She gave me some advice.
.....
- 2 There are some good films at the cinema this week.
.....
- 3 You'll find some cake in the cupboard.
.....
- 4 Maria had some heavy luggage with her at the airport.
.....
- 5 There are some letters for you today.
.....
- 6 We saw some snow on the mountains this morning.
.....

C Tom and Tina are writing a shopping list. Complete the dialogue with *a*, *some*, *any* or *no*.

- Tom: We haven't got (▶) *any* eggs so we need to buy (▶) *some*
- Tina: No, no. There are (1) in the fridge, but there's (2) cheese.
- Tom: OK, cheese. Now, we've got (3) fruit in the sitting room but we haven't got enough for the weekend so we need to buy (4) more. What else?
- Tina: We want to have (5) salad for lunch, I think.
- Tom: Yes, of course. So we need (6) lettuce. Oh, and (7) tomatoes because there aren't (8) in the kitchen.
- Tina: We must buy (9) bottle of oil as well.
- Tom: OK, and I want to buy (10) newspaper because there's (11) football match on TV this afternoon but I don't know what time it starts.
- Tina: But there are (12) football matches today because the weather is so bad. We can go and see (13) film instead.
- Tom: Oh, all right. Anyway, are there (14) more things to put on the list?
- Tina: No, I think that's everything. I hope you've got (15) money because I haven't got (16)
- Tina: OK. Put (17) coat on and get (18) shopping bag and we're ready.