

16 Indefinite pronouns



Mum. I'm getting something to eat. Do you want anything?

1 Form

PEOPLE	someone/somebody	anyone/anybody	everyone/everybody	no one/nobody
THINGS	something	anything	everything	nothing
PLACES	somewhere	anywhere	everywhere	nowhere

We use a singular verb with all these pronouns.

Everything is expensive in Switzerland. Nobody lives on the moon.

⚠ *X Everybody make mistakes. ✓ Everybody makes mistakes.*

2 Indefinite pronouns with *some/any*

We use indefinite pronouns to talk about a person, object or place. The exact person, object or place is not important:

	<i>some</i>	<i>any</i>	EXAMPLES
in positive sentences	✓	✗	<i>I'll ask someone for help.</i> <i>He needs something for his computer.</i>
in negative sentences	✗	✓	<i>I can't find anywhere to sit.</i> <i>There isn't anything on TV tonight.</i>
in most questions	✗	✓	<i>Did you see anyone in town?</i> <i>Is there anything you want at the shop?</i>
when you ask for or offer something	✓	✗	<i>Can I have something to drink?</i> <i>Would you like something to eat?</i>
when you suggest something	✓	✗	<i>Let's go somewhere nice for a meal tonight.</i>

some/any ► Unit 7

3 Indefinite pronouns with *no*

We use *no one/nobody*, *nowhere* and *nothing* with positive verbs, but the meaning is negative: *There's nowhere to sit.* (= There isn't anywhere to sit.) *No one answered the phone.*

⚠ We don't use two negatives in English:

X I didn't eat nothing. ✓ *I didn't eat anything.*
X Nobody isn't here. ✓ *Nobody is here.*

4 Indefinite pronouns with *every*

We use *everyone/everybody*, *everything* and *everywhere* when we mean 'all people', 'all things' or 'all places':

Everyone in the room stopped speaking. Everybody was very happy with the results.
Is everything all right? I want to visit everywhere on the island.

Practice

1 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 0 I'm thirsty. I need *anything* / *something* to drink.
- 1 Everybody on my course *has* / *have* a university degree.
- 2 We don't have *something* / *anything* in the fridge.
- 3 The shop was expensive so I didn't buy *nothing* / *anything*.
- 4 She looked *anywhere* / *everywhere* but she couldn't find her key.
- 5 Be quiet! Everyone *are* / *is* asleep.
- 6 They're on holiday so nobody *is* / *isn't* at home.
- 7 No one *like* / *likes* unfriendly people.
- 8 We don't know *somebody* / *anybody* who speaks Turkish.

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with indefinite pronouns.

A I'm hungry. I haven't eaten (0) ...*anything*... today.
Let's find (1) for lunch.

B But there's (2) to eat near here.

A I'm sure there is. Let's ask (3)

B Excuse me. Is there (4) to eat
around here – a café or a restaurant?

C There's a hotel on Grange Street, but it's
quite expensive.

B Oh. Are there any cheaper places to eat?

C Mmm, not really. I'm afraid (5) in this
town is expensive.

A What about (6) like a sandwich?

C Well, there's a supermarket near here. I think it sells sandwiches.



3 Write the sentences again. Change the underlined word(s) to an indefinite pronoun and/or a different form of the verb.

- 0 There is no food in the fridge. There is nothing in the fridge......
- 1 All the students in my class are friendly.
- 2 There are no students in the classroom.
- 3 I didn't eat any food yesterday.
- 4 All the things here are dirty.
- 5 I've got no clothes to wear to the wedding.
- 6 There isn't a place to sit on this train.

4 Find four more mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

0 Nobody in my class likes classical music. ✓ 00 ^{Everywhere} Somewhere is busy at this time of year.

1 We didn't get nothing at the supermarket today.

2 Somebody was talking, but I don't know who.

3 The restaurant was empty; there wasn't nobody there.

4 Everyone use the Internet these days.

5 In my town there are cafés everywhere.

6 I think anything is expensive in this shop.