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Some-, Any-, No-

Someone has stolen my transformation compact! I can't transform myself into Sailor Lady without it! Is there **anyone** to help me?



No one can save you now!



Usage

In *Grammar Revolution S.1*, we learnt to use *some*, *any* and *no* to talk about amounts. In this unit, we are going to learn about several indefinite pronouns in the form of '**some / any / no + one / body / thing**'. We use indefinite pronouns to refer to people or things without saying who or what they are.

- e.g. *There are so many items in this boutique. Can you choose **anything** special?*
- e.g. ***Somebody** threw the rubbish everywhere!*
- e.g. *The beggar has **nothing** to eat, but **no one** is willing to help him.*



Educator's Tips

We usually put *some / any / no* and indefinite pronouns (such as *something* and *nobody*) in the following positions in a sentence:

	Position in a sentence	Example
some / any / no	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any <u>aliens</u> in the universe? • I bought some <u>juice</u>.
Indefinite pronoun (e.g. <i>somebody</i> , <i>something</i> , <i>anybody</i> , <i>anything</i> , <i>nobody</i> , <i>nothing</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before verbs (as the subject) • after verbs (as the object) • before adjectives • before <i>to</i>-infinitives • before adverb phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone <u>has broken</u> into my house. • I <u>made</u> something for Mum. • I didn't eat anything <u>yummy</u>. • The boy has nothing <u>to do</u>. • There is nobody <u>in the flat</u>.



Part 1 Revision: Some, Any, No

We usually use *some*, *any* and *no* for the following purposes:

	Usage	Example
Some	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To talk about an uncertain amount To make requests, suggestions or offers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ate some <u>rice</u> for dinner. Shall we buy some <u>pineapples</u>?
Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To express a zero amount in a negative statement To ask about the amount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There wasn't any <u>water</u> left. Will you charge any <u>fees</u>?
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To express a zero amount in a positive statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no <u>chicken wings</u>.

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with 'some', 'any' or 'no'.

- There are _____ fresh prawns in Tom Yum Soup.
- Did you drink _____ juice this morning?
- Could you lend me _____ money? I forgot my wallet.
- Miss Tam is a very strict teacher. _____ students dare to skip her classes.
Have you ever met _____ teachers like her?
- Wife: How can I make an omelette with _____ eggs? Can you go to the chicken coop to get _____ fresh ones for me?
Farmer: I'm sorry, I can't. The chickens didn't lay _____ eggs last night.



Part 2 Some-, Any-, No-

We use *someone* / *somebody* and *something* for different purposes.

	Purpose	Example
Positive statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To refer to an unknown person or thing To refer to a person or thing that is not important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somebody left his wallet here. I bought something for the beggar to eat.
Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make requests, suggestions or offers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can someone do the dishes? (Request) Shall I cook something? (Suggestion) Would you like something to drink? (Offer)

We use *anyone / anybody* and *anything* for different purposes.

	Purpose	Example
Positive statement	To be used with words having negative meanings such as <i>never, hardly, rarely, seldom</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was <u>hardly</u> anyone suitable for the post. Peter <u>seldom</u> buys anything expensive.
Negative statement	To refer to the zero amount of a person or thing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher didn't see anyone in the classroom. I haven't bought anything in the market yet.
Question	To ask about the amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you know anything about the new student? Did John meet anybody in the shopping mall?

We use *no one / nobody* and *nothing* in positive statements.

	Purpose	Example
Positive statement	To refer to the zero amount of a person or thing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nobody is joyful in this factory. There is nothing to worry about.

Exercise 2.1

Circle the correct indefinite pronouns in brackets.

- There was (anybody / nobody) at the bus stop.
- Did you listen to (something / anything) the lecturer said?
- Does your cat Molly allow (somebody / anybody) to touch it?
- There is (anything / nothing) left in the flat. They moved away last week.
- The boss has just ordered (someone / no one) to buy lunch for him.
- Amy cares about her health very much. She seldom eats (anything / nothing) unhealthy.
- When the shoplifter didn't see (anyone / no one) around him, he put (something / anything) into his bag secretly.
- Can (somebody / nobody) open the door for me, please? I'm holding (something / nothing) very heavy but (someone / no one) is here to help me. Poor me!





Educator's Tips



We can use *no one / nobody* to replace *not anyone / anybody* and *nothing* to replace *not anything*.

e.g. There was no one in the hall. (= There was not anyone in the hall.)

e.g. The victims have nothing to eat. (= The victims do not have anything to eat.)

We use *someone / somebody, something, anyone / anybody, anything, no one / nobody* and *nothing* with a **singular verb**.

X are

e.g. Something is moving.

X Do

e.g. Does anyone speak Mandarin?



Exercise 2.2

Decide whether the underlined words are correct or not. If they are correct, put a tick (✓) in the spaces provided. If they are incorrect, write the correct words there.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Judy had handed <u>some</u> to Mr Lee before the lesson started. | 1. <u>something</u> |
| 2. No one <u>want</u> to help the injured man. | 2. _____ |
| 3. I haven't eaten <u>anyone</u> the whole day. I'm so hungry now. | 3. _____ |
| 4. There was hardly <u>someone</u> on the street at 3 am. | 4. _____ |
| 5. Are there <u>anything</u> pink costumes in the store? | 5. _____ |
| 6. Do you have <u>nothing</u> to say to the judge? | 6. _____ |
| 7. Miss Lau asks <u>something</u> to be the student helper of the day. | 7. _____ |
| 8. Have you done <u>anything</u> to help Mum? | 8. _____ |
| 9a. Someone <u>were</u> knocking on our door. When Dad opened it, | 9a. _____ |
| 9b. he didn't see <u>no one</u> there. It was a woodpecker. | 9b. _____ |
| 10a. The puppy had <u>anybody</u> to play with in the house, so | 10a. _____ |
| 10b. it went to the garden to find <u>anything</u> to chew on. When it | 10b. _____ |
| 10c. spotted <u>no</u> bones, it was very happy. Bones are its favourite | 10c. _____ |
| 10d. and it likes <u>anything</u> more than them. | 10d. _____ |

Unit Recap

Cathy is writing an e-mail to her friend about a nightmare she had. Complete the email with the pronouns given. Each pronoun can be used **ONCE** only.

some	any	no	someone	something
anybody	anything	no one	nothing	

To: katrina@fastmail.com
From: cathyangel@gmail.com
Subject: A horrible nightmare

Hi Katrina,

I had a nightmare last night and I must tell you about it! In the dream, I was walking on the street. I felt that (1) _____ was following me. I turned around but didn't see (2) _____. However, as I went on walking, I saw a man's shadow behind me. I was so frightened that I ran very fast to find (3) _____ places to hide.

While I was running into a dark alley, I **trampled** over (4) _____ heavily. I was terrified—it was Pipi, your dog! It was bleeding heavily and moaning with pain. I held it in my arms and continued to run, but soon I found that the alley was a dead end—there weren't (5) _____ ways out! At the same time, a man with a knife was walking towards me. I could do (6) _____ but scream!

Luckily, you were there in time. You shot the man to death while you were trying to save me! Both of us were in a panic. Since (7) _____ else was there, we left the scene quickly. We wanted to save Pipi but there were (8) _____ animal hospitals. Pipi died at last. You were so **distressed** that you kept crying and questioned me how I could have killed Pipi. I didn't manage to explain how this tragedy had happened and you fired at me... 'BANG!'

Then I woke up with my heart racing and I was gasping. What a nightmare that seemed so real! I dare not do (9) _____ bad to Pipi or you'll probably shoot me.

Love,
Cathy




Vocabulary:

trample (v.): to step on something or someone heavily, causing damage or injury

distressed (adj.): sad and worried