

Something, anyone, nowhere

Grammar Lesson, Examples & 30 Practice Questions

Something, Anyone, Nowhere – Indefinite Pronouns

In English, we use special words to talk about people, places, and things without saying exactly who or what they are. Words like **something**, **anyone**, and **nowhere** are called **indefinite pronouns**. "Indefinite" means we are not being specific – we do not know exactly, or it does not matter.

Here is a simple example:

"I heard something strange last night."

"Is anyone home?"

"There is nowhere to sit."

In this lesson, you will learn how to use **something**, **anyone**, **nowhere** and all the words in this group correctly.

The Three Groups: Some–, Any–, No–

These words are built from three parts: **some–**, **any–**, and **no–**. Each part combines with **-thing** (for objects), **-one / -body** (for people), and **-where** (for places).

Group	For things	For people	For people (informal)	For places
some–	something	someone	somebody	somewhere
any–	anything	anyone	anybody	anywhere
no–	nothing	no one	nobody	nowhere

Note: *Someone* and *somebody* mean the same thing. *Anyone* and *anybody* mean the same thing. You can use either one.

Using Some– Words (Something, Someone, Somewhere)

We use **some–** words in **positive sentences** (sentences that are not negative and not a question). We use them when we believe something, someone, or a place exists, but we do not say exactly what or who it is.

Something

Something = a thing we do not name exactly.

"I can smell something nice." (a thing – we do not say exactly what)

"There is something in my bag."

"She wants to eat something."

Someone / Somebody

Someone / Somebody = a person we do not name exactly.

"Someone is at the door."

"I think somebody called your name."

"She is talking to someone."

Somewhere

Somewhere = a place we do not name exactly.

"I left my keys somewhere in the house."

"Let's go somewhere quiet."

"He lives somewhere near the city."

Using Any– Words (Anything, Anyone, Anywhere)

We use **any–** words in **negative sentences** and in **questions**.

Anything

Anything = used in questions and negative sentences about things.

"Did you eat anything today?" (question)

"I did not eat anything." (negative)

"Is there anything I can do?" (question)

Anyone / Anybody

Anyone / Anybody = used in questions and negative sentences about people.

"Does anyone know the answer?" (question)

"I don't know anybody here." (negative)

"Can anyone help me?" (question)

Anywhere

Anywhere = used in questions and negative sentences about places.

"Did you go anywhere yesterday?" (question)

"We didn't go anywhere." (negative)

"Is there a café anywhere near here?" (question)

Using No– Words (Nothing, No One, Nowhere)

We use **no–** words to make a sentence negative in meaning. Be careful! When you use a **no–** word, the verb must be **positive**. This is because the **no–** word already makes the sentence negative.

Nothing

Nothing = not any thing / zero things.

"There is nothing in the fridge." (= The fridge is empty.)

"I know nothing about this."

"Nothing happened."

No One / Nobody

No one / Nobody = not any person / zero people.

"No one is home."

"Nobody called."

"I saw nobody at the park."

Nowhere

Nowhere = not any place / zero places.

"There is nowhere to park."

"She had nowhere to go."

"The cat is nowhere to be found."

Patterns at a Glance

Sentence type	Things	People	Places
Positive (+)	something	someone / somebody	somewhere
Question (?)	anything	anyone / anybody	anywhere
Negative (–)	anything / nothing	anyone / no one	anywhere / nowhere

Remember: In negative sentences, you can use *any–* with *not*, or you can use *no–* without *not*. Both are correct, but you cannot use both at the same time.

"I don't know anything." ✓

"I know nothing." ✓

"I don't know nothing." ✗ (double negative – incorrect in standard English)

Special Use: Some– Words in Questions

Normally, we use **any–** in questions. But sometimes we use **some–** in questions too. This happens when:

- We **offer** something to someone.
- We **ask for** something and we hope the answer is yes.

"Would you like something to drink?" (an offer – we expect "yes")

"Can someone help me, please?" (we hope someone will say yes)

"Is there somewhere I can sit?" (we hope there is a place)

Compare these two questions:

"Did you go anywhere at the weekend?" (general question – we do not know the answer)

"Would you like to go somewhere nice for dinner?" (suggestion – we hope the answer is yes)

Grammar Rule: Singular Verb

All of these indefinite pronouns – **something, anyone, nobody, nowhere** – are treated as **singular**.

"Singular" means we use the same form of the verb as we use with *he, she, or it*.

"Someone **is** waiting outside." (not "are")

"Nobody **knows** the answer." (not "know")

"Everything **looks** good." (not "look")

Important Differences and Special Cases

Nothing vs. Not Anything

These two sentences have the same meaning:

"I have *nothing* to say."

"I don't have *anything* to say."

However, **nothing** is often stronger and more direct. **Not anything** is more common in spoken, everyday English.

No One vs. Nobody

No one and **nobody** mean exactly the same thing. The only difference is spelling: *no one* is two words, and *nobody* is one word.

"No one came to the party." = "Nobody came to the party."

Somewhere vs. Anywhere in Positive Sentences

In positive sentences, **somewhere** suggests a specific (but unknown) place. **Anywhere** in a positive sentence means "in every place" or "it does not matter where".

"I want to go **somewhere** warm." (a specific type of place – I have an idea in mind)

"You can sit **anywhere** you like." (it does not matter which place – all places are fine)

Common Mistakes

✗ *Someone don't know the answer.*

✓ **No one knows the answer. / Someone doesn't know the answer.**

✗ *I don't know nothing about it.*

✓ **I don't know anything about it. / I know nothing about it.**

✗ *There is somewhere I can find it?*

✓ **Is there anywhere I can find it?**

✗ *Nobody are here.*

✓ **Nobody is here.** (use singular verb with no–, any–, some– pronouns)

✗ *I heard anything outside.*

✓ **I heard something outside.** (use some– in positive sentences)

✗ *Can somebody don't help me?*

✓ **Can't anyone help me? / Can someone help me?**

Something, Anyone, Nowhere: Quick Summary

- Use **some–** words (*something, someone, somewhere*) in **positive sentences** and in questions that are **offers or requests**.
- Use **any–** words (*anything, anyone, anywhere*) in **questions** and **negative sentences** (with *not*).
- Use **no–** words (*nothing, no one, nowhere*) in sentences that are **negative in meaning** – but the verb stays **positive**.
- *Someone = somebody, anyone = anybody, no one = nobody.*
- All these pronouns use a **singular verb** (like *he/she/it*).
- Never use a **no–** word and **not** together – this is a double negative.

Now practise **something, anyone, nowhere** and all the indefinite pronouns in the exercises below.

Something, anyone, nowhere – Practice Test

A2 | 30 Questions: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap & Fill-in-the-Blank

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 I'm hungry. Is there ____ to eat in the kitchen?

- A** nowhere
- B** someone
- C** anything
- D** no one

2 ____ called you while you were out. I don't know who it was.

- A** Anywhere
- B** Something
- C** Anyone
- D** Nowhere

3 I can't find my keys. I looked ____, but I didn't find them.

- A** everywhere
- B** nowhere
- C** anywhere
- D** somewhere

4 There is ____ strange outside. Let's go and look!

- A** someone
- B** something
- C** anywhere
- D** nothing

5 This town is so boring. There is ____ interesting to do here.

- A** somewhere
- B** nothing
- C** anywhere
- D** something

6 Can ____ help me carry these bags? They are very heavy.

- A** anywhere
- B** anything
- C** nowhere
- D** anyone

7 I want to go ____ warm for my holiday. Maybe Spain or Italy.

- A** nowhere
- B** anyone
- C** somewhere
- D** anything

8 I looked at her bag, but there was ____ inside. It was completely empty.

- A** something
- B** anywhere
- C** nothing
- D** anywhere

9 The café is closed and the park is full. There is ____ to sit down!

- A** nowhere
- B** anywhere
- C** somewhere
- D** everywhere

10 Did you meet ____ interesting at the party last night?

- A** nothing
- B** nowhere
- C** somewhere
- D** anyone

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 I heard a noise. There is ____ at the door.

- A** someone
- B** anyone
- C** no one

12 Did ____ call me while I was out?

- A** anyone
- B** someone
- C** no one

13 I looked everywhere but I found ____ interesting in the shop.

- A** nothing
- B** something
- C** anything

14 She wants to go ____ warm for her holiday.

- A** somewhere
- B** anywhere
- C** nowhere

15 There is ____ to sit in this crowded cafe.

- A** nowhere
- B** somewhere
- C** anywhere

16 Can ____ help me carry these bags?

- A** anyone
- B** no one
- C** everyone

17 I have ____ to tell you — it's a secret!

- A** something
- B** anything
- C** nothing

18 She went ____ last weekend. She stayed home all day.

- A** nowhere
- B** somewhere
- C** anywhere

19 Would you like ____ to drink?

- A** something
- B** anything
- C** nothing

20 He didn't go ____ after school yesterday.

- A** anywhere
- B** somewhere
- C** nowhere

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 I am hungry. Can I have _____ to eat, please?

22 Is there _____ at home? I knocked on the door but nobody answered.

23 I looked everywhere for my keys, but they were _____ to be found.

24 She didn't tell _____ about her surprise birthday party.

25 There is _____ strange in this room. I can feel it!

26 I searched the whole house but I could find my glasses _____ .

27 Can _____ help me carry these heavy bags to the car?

28 Would you like _____ to drink? We have juice and water.

29 The town was very quiet. There was _____ open to buy food on Sunday evening.

30 Does _____ in your class speak French? I need some help with my homework.

Answer Key & Explanations

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Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **C** Correct Answer: anything ✓ Explanation: We use anything in questions when we ask about things. Is there anything to eat? means we don't know if there is food or not.
2. **C** Correct Answer: Anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone to talk about a person when we don't know who it is. Anyone called you means an unknown person called.
3. **C** Correct Answer: anywhere ✓ Explanation: We use anywhere in negative sentences to say not in any place. I didn't find them anywhere means in no place at all.
4. **B** Correct Answer: something ✓ Explanation: We use something in positive sentences to talk about a thing we don't know exactly. There is something strange means an unknown thing.
5. **B** Correct Answer: nothing ✓ Explanation: We use nothing to mean zero things or not anything. There is nothing to do means there are no activities at all.
6. **D** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in questions to ask about a person. Can anyone help me? means we are asking if any person can help.
7. **C** Correct Answer: somewhere ✓ Explanation: We use somewhere in positive sentences to talk about a place we don't name exactly. I want to go somewhere warm means an unknown but specific type of place.
8. **C** Correct Answer: nothing ✓ Explanation: We use nothing to say there are zero things. There was nothing inside means the bag had no things in it.
9. **A** Correct Answer: nowhere ✓ Explanation: We use nowhere to mean not in any place. There is nowhere to sit means there is no place where you can sit.
10. **D** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in questions to ask about people. Did you meet anyone interesting? asks if any person at the party was interesting.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: someone ✓ Explanation: We use someone in positive statements when we think a person is there. There is someone at the door. Anyone is used in questions or negatives.
12. **A** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in questions to ask about people. Did anyone call me? is a common question form.

13. **A** Correct Answer: nothing ✓ Explanation: We use nothing to mean 'not a single thing' in a positive sentence. I found nothing interesting means the result was zero.
14. **A** Correct Answer: somewhere ✓ Explanation: We use somewhere in positive statements to talk about a place. She wants to go somewhere warm means a specific kind of place.
15. **A** Correct Answer: nowhere ✓ Explanation: Nowhere means 'no place at all'. There is nowhere to sit means every seat is taken. It is used with a positive verb.
16. **A** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: In requests and questions, we use anyone to ask if a person is available. Can anyone help me? is a polite request.
17. **A** Correct Answer: something ✓ Explanation: We use something in positive sentences when we refer to a thing. I have something to tell you shows there is information to share.
18. **A** Correct Answer: nowhere ✓ Explanation: Nowhere means 'not any place'. She went nowhere confirms she did not leave the house. The second sentence explains why.
19. **A** Correct Answer: something ✓ Explanation: In offers, we use something instead of anything to be polite and friendly. Would you like something to drink? is a common polite offer.
20. **A** Correct Answer: anywhere ✓ Explanation: After a negative verb like didn't, we use anywhere (not nowhere). He didn't go anywhere means he stayed in one place.

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **something** Correct Answer: something ✓ Explanation: We use something in affirmative sentences and requests to talk about an unspecified thing. Can I have something to eat? is a polite request.
22. **anyone** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in questions to ask about a person when we do not know who. Is there anyone at home?
23. **nowhere** Correct Answer: nowhere ✓ Explanation: Nowhere means not in any place. We use it to say that something does not exist in any location. They were nowhere to be found.
24. **anyone** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in negative sentences to mean no person. She didn't tell anyone means she told nobody.
25. **something** Correct Answer: something ✓ Explanation: We use something in affirmative sentences to talk about an unspecified thing. There is something strange here.
26. **nowhere** Correct Answer: nowhere ✓ Explanation: Nowhere means not in any place. It is used to say that a search in every place was unsuccessful. I could find them nowhere.
27. **anyone** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in questions when we ask for help from an unspecified person. Can anyone help me?

28. **something** Correct Answer: something ✓ Explanation: We use something in offers and polite requests. Would you like something to drink? is a common way to offer a drink.
29. **nowhere** Correct Answer: nowhere ✓ Explanation: Nowhere means no place. It tells us that there was not a single place open. There was nowhere open.
30. **anyone** Correct Answer: anyone ✓ Explanation: We use anyone in questions to refer to an unspecified person in a group. Does anyone speak French?

Score Guide

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|----------------------|--|
| 27–30 Correct | Excellent! You have mastered this topic. |
| 23–26 Correct | Very good! Review the rules you missed. |
| 18–22 Correct | Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples. |
| 0–17 Correct | Study the lesson again before retaking the test. |