

- 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 **has 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 ask for or offer things:

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

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

- ☐ Do you have **any** luggage? (maybe you do, maybe not)
- ☐ Is there **anybody** in the house? (maybe there is, maybe not)

- C** You can use **if + any**:

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

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

- ☐ I'm sorry for **any** trouble I've caused. (= **if** I have caused **any** trouble)
- ☐ The police want to speak to **anyone** who saw the accident. (= **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)
- ☐ 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.

Compare **some-** and **any-**:

- ☐ 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)
- ☐ B: Let's go out **somewhere**.  
A: Where shall we go?  
B: **Anywhere**. I just want to go out.

- 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 Have you seen ..... good movies recently?
- 4 I'd like ..... information about what there is to see in this town.
- 5 I didn't have ..... money. I had to borrow .....
- 6 You can use your card to withdraw money at ..... cash machine.
- 7 Those apples look nice. Shall we get .....?
- 8 With the special tourist train ticket, you can travel on ..... train you like.
- 9 'Can I have ..... more coffee, please?' 'Sure. Help yourself.'
- 10 If there are ..... words you don't understand, look them up in a dictionary.
- 11 We wanted to buy ..... grapes, but they didn't have ..... in the shop.

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 can't drive and I don't know ..... about cars.
- 5 You must be hungry. Why don't I get you ..... to eat?
- 6 Emma is very tolerant. She never complains about .....
- 7 There was hardly ..... on the beach. It was almost deserted.
- 8 Let's go away. Let's go ..... warm and sunny.
- 9 I'm going out now. If ..... asks where I am, tell them you don't know.
- 10 Why are you looking under the bed? Have you lost .....?
- 11 This is a no-parking area. .... who parks their car here will have to pay a fine.
- 12 Quick, let's go! There's ..... coming and I don't want ..... to see us.
- 13 They stay at home all the time. They never seem to go .....
- 14 Jonathan stood up and left the room without saying .....
- 15 'Can I ask you .....?' 'Sure. What do you want to ask?'
- 16 Sarah was upset about ..... and refused to talk to .....
- 17 I need ..... to translate. Is there ..... here who speaks English?
- 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 take?          | <u>Any bus</u> . They all go to the centre.           |
| 2 When shall we meet? Monday?           | I don't mind. .... next week will be OK for me.       |
| 3 What do you want to eat?              | ..... I don't mind. Whatever you have.                |
| 4 Who shall I invite to the party?      | It's your party. You can invite ..... you want.       |
| 5 What sort of job are you looking for? | ..... It doesn't matter what it is.                   |
| 6 Where shall I sit?                    | It's up to you. You can sit ..... you like.           |
| 7 Is this machine difficult to use?     | No, it's easy. .... can learn to use it very quickly. |