

SOMETHING, ANYTHING, NOTHING – A2

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn how to use “something”, “anything” and “nothing” and the differences between them.
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When do we use “some”? 2. When do we use “any”? 3. When do we use “no + noun”?

The differences in the use of the words “something”, “anything”, and “nothing” apply to the words following the same pattern, such as:

- “somewhere”, “anywhere”, “nowhere”,
- “somebody”, “anybody”, “nobody” or “no one”,

These differences are based on the differences between “some”, “any”, and “no”.

1. When do we use “some”?

You can use “some” in 3 cases:

- **in positive statements**

Example:

I always put some sugar and milk in my tea.

Use “some” with uncountable nouns and with plural countable nouns. Otherwise, you can use “a / an”.

Example:

I watched a good movie yesterday.

- **In questions, in particular when they express a request or an offer**

Examples:

Would you like some tea?

Could you give me some milk for my tea?

- **In clauses in which you need to talk about an unspecified amount that is not too large.**

Example:

In order to buy a house, I would need to have some savings at the bank.

For advanced learners:

The expression “**some of**” use with another determiner is used to refer to a specific group.

Example:

Some of my friends really enjoy adding ginger to their tea.

2. When do we use “any”?

You can use “any” in 2 cases:

- **In negative statements and questions**

Examples:

I am sorry, I do not have any chocolates to offer you today.

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Use “any” with uncountable nouns and with plural countable nouns.

With singular countable nouns, use “a / an”.

Examples:

Do you have a pencil I could borrow?

I have just moved, I don’t have a bicycle.

- **In positive statements when it is used to mean “it doesn’t matter who / which / where / when”**

Example:

You can call the firemen anytime.

3. When do we use “no + noun”?

You can use “no + noun” in 2 cases:

- **In negative sentences when the noun is a subject:**

Example:

No tea can beat breakfast tea.

- In negative sentences to mean the same as “not ... any”:

Example:

I am sorry, I have no chocolates to offer you today.

Exercise:

Fill the gaps in the sentences below with “some”, “any” or “no”.

1. There was a strike the other day and there were _____ trains.
2. I couldn't go _____ where.
3. I cannot find my keys _____ where!
4. I will have to learn how to drive a car _____ day.
5. Do you think there is _____ way I could start learning with my parents first?
6. There is _____ way my father would accept to teach me how to drive though. He is too stressed when he is not the one driving.
7. Do you have _____ dictionary I could borrow?
8. I can't see _____ differences between eagles and falcons.
9. I can see _____ difference between eagles and falcons.
10. I hope there is _____ way for me to finally understand the difference between “something”, “anything” and “nothing”!

Answers:

1. no
2. any
3. any
4. some
5. any
6. no
7. a
8. any
9. no
10. a

Learn More:

<https://www.ef.com/wwen/english-resources/english-grammar/indefinite-pronouns/>

<https://www.ecenglish.com/learnenglish/lessons/anything-nothing-something-everything>

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/something-anything-nothing-everything.html>