



B2 —

Someone, Something, Somewhere: Speaking Without Specifics

Learn about and refine your usage of indefinite pronouns with a sprinkling of determiners / quantifiers

Lesson objectives

By the end of this lesson,
students will be able to:

- Use indefinite pronouns accurately in speaking and writing,
- Distinguish between indefinite pronouns and determiners/quantifiers,
- Express ideas clearly when information is unknown, unimportant, or general.

Warm-up discussion

1. Have you ever lost **something** important? What happened?
2. Is there **someone** who always helps you when you have a problem?
3. Have you ever gone **somewhere** new recently?
4. Do you think **everyone** needs a routine? Why or why not?



Grammar guide | Indefinite pronouns

What are indefinite pronouns?

They refer to people, things, or places in a general way. They do not refer to something specific.

People:

- someone | somebody | anyone | anybody | everyone | everybody | no one | nobody

Things:

- something | anything | everything | nothing

Places:

- somewhere | anywhere | everywhere | nowhere

People | Indefinite pronouns [1/2]

someone	Meaning: An unspecified person (used in positive statements).
	Example: <i>Someone is waiting for you outside.</i>
somebody	Meaning: Same as “ someone ” (more informal).
	Example: <i>Somebody left their phone on the table.</i>
anyone	Meaning: Any person (used in questions and negatives).
	Example: <i>Does anyone know the answer?</i>
anybody	Meaning: Same as “ anyone ” (more informal).
	Example: <i>I didn't see anybody at the office.</i>

People | Indefinite pronouns [2/2]

everyone	Meaning: All people in a group.
	Example: <i>Everyone enjoyed the lesson.</i>
everybody	Meaning: Same as “ everyone ” (more informal).
	Example: <i>Everybody is ready to begin.</i>
no one	Meaning: Not a single person.
	Example: <i>No one understand the problem.</i>
nobody	Meaning: Same as “ no one ” (more informal).
	Example: <i>Nobody called me yesterday.</i>

Things | Indefinite pronouns

something	Meaning: An unspecified thing (positive sentences).
	Example: <i>I need something to eat.</i>
anything	Meaning: Any thing (questions and negatives).
	Example: <i>Do you need anything?</i>
everything	Meaning: All things.
	Example: <i>Everything is ready for the meeting.</i>
nothing	Meaning: Not a single thing.
	Example: <i>There is nothing in the fridge.</i>

Places | Indefinite pronouns

somewhere	Meaning: An unspecified place (positive sentences).
	Example: <i>Let's go somewhere quiet.</i>
anywhere	Meaning: Any place (questions and negatives).
	Example: <i>I can't find my keys anywhere.</i>
everywhere	Meaning: All places.
	Example: <i>There are people everywhere.</i>
nowhere	Meaning: No place.
	Example: <i>There is nowhere to sit.</i>

Beautiful pattern to remember

Type	Positive	Negative Question	All	None
People	someone	anyone	everyone	no one
Things	something	anything	everything	nothing
Places	somewhere	anywhere	everywhere	nowhere



Important note!

Some words in English can be both quantifiers and indefinite pronouns. When they are used without a noun, they function as indefinite pronouns.

Here is a list of quantifiers as indefinite pronouns (when no noun is used):

Some | any | none | many | much | few | little | several | all | both | either | neither | enough | each | one | ones | another | other | others

Pronouns versus Determiners (Quantifiers)

Some words can act as:

- Indefinite pronouns
- Determiners (quantifiers)

Rule:

- If the word stand alone → ***it is a pronoun***
- If it comes before a noun → ***it is a determiner***

Examples:

1. I don't have **any**. → pronoun
I don't have **any money**. → determiner
2. **Some** are missing. → pronoun
Some students are missing. → determiner
3. **Many** were invited. → pronoun
Many people attended. → determiner

Special cases: Each | None

Each:

- Always singular.
- Focuses on individuals.

Example:

- *Each student has a book.*



None:

- Means “not any”.
- Can be singular or plural.

Examples:

- *None of the cake is left.*
- *None of the students are here.*



Controlled practice

Choose the correct option:

1. _____ is waiting for you outside. (a) *Someone* (b) *Some*
2. I don't have _____ to say. (a) *anything* (b) *any*
3. _____ of the students passed the test. (a) *None* (b) *No*
4. _____ people prefer coffee in the morning. (a) *Many* (b) *Many of*
5. _____ told me about the meeting yesterday. (a) *Someone* (b) *Some*
6. Do you have _____ questions before we begin? (a) *any* (b) *anything*
7. _____ of the information was useful. (a) *None* (b) *No*
8. _____ students in this class are very motivated. (a) *Several* (b) *Several of*



Identify the function

Are the bold words pronouns (P) or determiners (D)?

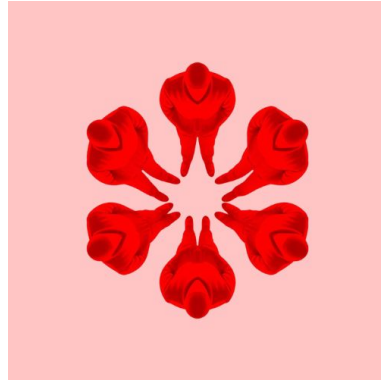
1. I didn't see **any**.
2. **Some** people are very kind.
3. **All** were invited.
4. **Few** students understood the task.
5. I spoke to **someone** after the meeting.
6. **Many** people attended the event.
7. **None** were prepared for the surprise.
8. She didn't have **enough** time to finish the task.



Apply a statement to each of the images [1/3]

Use one of the below indefinite pronouns to say something about the images.
You can make a positive statement, a negative statement, or ask a question.

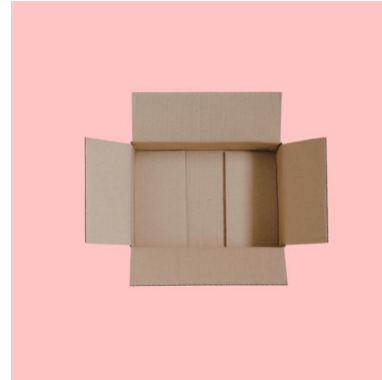
Indefinite pronouns: *no one* | *everyone* | *anyone* | *someone*



Apply a statement to each of the images [2/3]

Use one of the below indefinite pronouns to say something about the images. You can make a positive statement, a negative statement, or ask a question.

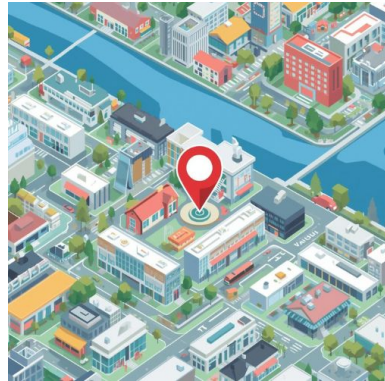
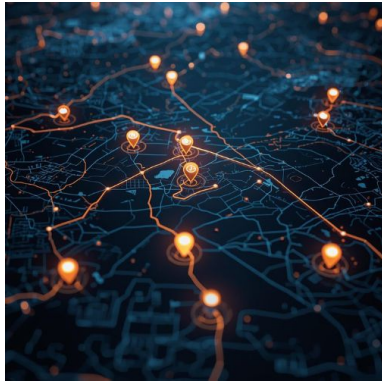
Indefinite pronouns: *something* | *nothing* | *anything* | *everything*



Apply a statement to each of the images [3/3]

Use one of the below indefinite pronouns to say something about the images. You can make a positive statement, a negative statement, or ask a question.

Indefinite pronouns: *nowhere* | *anywhere* | *everywhere* | *somewhere*



***“The Missing File”* | Reading activity**

Yesterday, something strange happened in the office. Nobody knew exactly what was going on, but everyone felt that something was wrong.

Someone had taken an important file, but no one knew who it was. There were several people in the office at the time, but none of them admitted anything.

Later, someone suggested that the file might be somewhere else, but nobody could find it anywhere. In the end, nothing was solved, and everyone left the office feeling confused.

Comprehension questions



1. What was missing?
2. Did anyone admit taking the file?
3. Where did they look?
4. How did everyone feel at the end?

Guided speaking

Task: Describe an unclear situation.

Students must use as least:

1. ×3 indefinite pronouns,
2. ×2 quantifiers

Example prompts:

- *“Something strange happened at work ...”*
- *“Someone told me a story, but ...”*
- *“I went somewhere interesting, but ...”*



Freer discussion

1. Why do people sometimes avoid giving specific details?
2. Is it better to say “someone” or to be specific? Why?
3. Have you ever been in a situation where nobody knew the truth?



HearSay Learn

Use your WhatsApp to listen to the generated audio



HearSay Learn audio activities

This next section of activities is based on a **HearSay Learn audio track**. These slides include the **HearSay Learn logo** in the top-right corner so you can easily identify them.

Want to Listen to the Audio?

To access the track:

- Click the shareable link on the slide, or
- Scan the QR code using your mobile phone.

This will open the **HearSay Learn WhatsApp** application, where you can listen to the audio as many times as you like.

Prefer Not to Use **HearSay Learn**?

No problem. If you'd rather skip the audio-based tasks, simply move ahead to the slides without the **HearSay Learn logo**. All essential practice activities are still included.

Elucidated English x **HearSay Learn**

Elucidated English is an official partner of **HearSay Learn**.

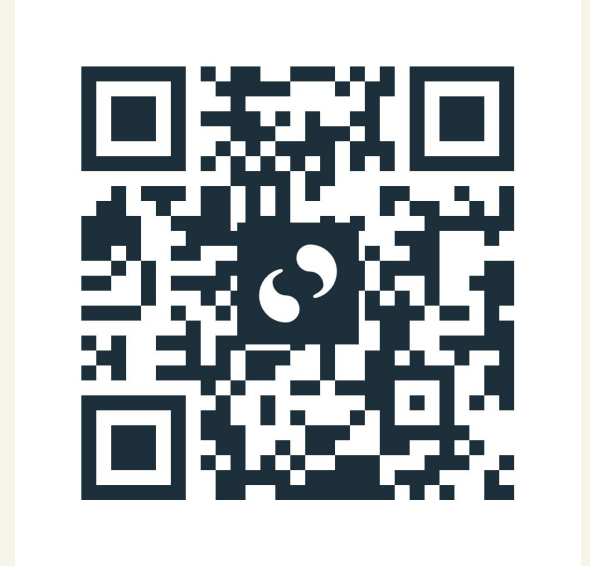
If you enjoy the audio experience, **HearSay Learn** offers affordable subscription options that allow you to:

- Listen to tracks on repeat
- Improve your pronunciation
- Strengthen listening skills naturally
- Train your ear in real conversational English





“A Lost Find on the Bus”



[Click here to listen to the conversation \(or scan the QR code, above\)](#)

*** *British accent*



Listening comprehension

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions:

1. Where did Oliver find the purse?
2. When did he find it?
3. Did Oliver see who left the purse behind?
4. Where exactly was the purse located?
5. What did Oliver do with the purse?





Detailed understanding

Listen again and answer in more detail:

1. Why didn't Oliver check inside the purse?
2. What does Sophie ask about the contents of the purse?
3. How does Sophie react to Oliver's decision?
4. What do they both hope will happen next?





Indefinite pronouns focus

Listen carefully and complete the sentences:

1. Oliver found _____ purse on the bus.
2. He didn't see _____ leave it behind.
3. There was _____ around when he sat down.
4. Sophie asked if there was _____ inside the purse.
5. Oliver didn't want to touch _____ personal.
6. He hopes _____ will claim it later.





Discussion | Fluency practice

1. What would you do if you found something valuable in public?
2. Do you think Oliver made the right decision? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever lost something important? What happened?





Thank you for your support.

YouTube: @elucidatedenglish