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| **Language Point logo Somebody, anybody, nobody, everybody** | http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/images/clear.gif | Alice sitting in a chair |

**Every, some, any, no**

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| http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/images/clear.gif | |
| |  | | --- | | **'Every'**, **'some'**, **'any'** and **'no'** can be used with **'one'**, **'body'** and **'thing'** to form compound pronouns, such as **everyone**, **somebody**, **anything and nothing**.  **'Every'**, **'some'**, **'any'** and **'no'** can also be used with **'where'** to form adverbs such as **everywhere**, **somewhere** and **anywhere**.   Pronouns such as **somebody**, **nothing** and **everything** usually take a **singular verb,** even though they may seem to refer to more than one thing.   Don't touch that computer: **somebody is** using it.  Don't worry. **Nothing has** happened. **Is everything** ready for the party? **Everybody has** arrived.  However, after **everyone/everybody**, we use **they/their/them**, even though the verb is singular.  **Everyone has** to take **their** shoes off before they come in. Could **everybody** please **put** **their** names on the list? **Everybody enjoyed** **themselves** at the party. | | |
| **Somebody, someone, something, somewhere** | |
| These words refer to a person, thing or place, without identifying **which** person, thing or place.  **somebody** / **someone**: an unidentified person **something**: an unidentified thing  **somewhere**: an unidentified place   Alice says **'there's something** I want to ask you.' She is saying that she has a question, but she hasn't yet identified the topic of the question. When she says: '**There's somebody else**, isn't there?' this is a positive statement, followed by a question tag. Alice is saying that she believes that Paul is seeing another woman, but she doesn't know who.  More examples: **Somebody** called yesterday, but I don't know who it was.  He had **something** to eat before he went home.  Have you seen my phone? I put it down **somewhere** and now I can't find it. | |
| **Anybody, anyone, anything, anywhere** |
| These words are used in **questions** and **negative sentences**, to refer to a person, thing or place, without identifying **which** person, thing or place.  **anybody** / **anyone**: an unidentified person  **anything**: an unidentified thing **anywhere**: an unidentified place  Are you seeing **anybody** else?  I've just moved to a new town, and I don't know **anyone**.  I haven't had **anything** to eat since I arrived.   **'any-'** words are also used to express **conditions**: 'You can park **anywhere' =** '**if** you need a place to park, use one of these spaces.'  'It's easy to find. Ask **anyone'** = '**if** you can't find it, ask someone: everybody knows where it is.' |

**Nobody, no-one, nothing, nowhere**

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| These words are used in positive sentences, but they have negative meanings: they refer to an absence of people, things or place.  **No-one** is written with a hyphen between the two 'o's.   **Nobody** knows where it is.  **No-one** came to the party.  He says he knows **nothing** about the crime.  They are homeless. They have **nowhere** to live. |

**Everybody, everyone, everything, everywhere**

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| http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/images/clear.gif |
| These words are used to refer to **all** people, things or places. **Everybody** and **everyone** have the same meaning.  **Everybody** likes chocolate.  **Everything** closes at the end of the holiday season. We need to tidy up. There's rubbish **everywhere**.  **More examples of indefinite pronouns.**  **Indefinite Pronouns**  An indefinite pronoun does not refer to any specific person, thing or amount. It is vague and "not definite". Some typical indefinite pronouns are:   * all, another, any, anybody/anyone, anything, each, everybody/everyone, everything, few, many, nobody, none, one, several, some, somebody/someone   Note that many indefinite pronouns also function as other parts of speech. Look at "another" in the following sentences:   * He has one job in the day and another at night. (pronoun) * I'd like another drink, please. (adjective)   Most indefinite pronouns are either singular or plural. However, some of them can be singular in one context and plural in another. The most common indefinite pronouns are listed below, with examples, as singular, plural or singular/plural.  Notice that a singular **pronoun** takes a singular *verb* AND that any personal pronoun should also *agree* (in number and gender). Look at these examples:   * **Each** of the players *has* a doctor. * I met two girls. **One** *has* given me *her* phone number.   Similarly, plural **pronouns** need plural *agreement*:   * **Many** *have* expressed *their* views.  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **pronoun** | **meaning** | **example** | | **singular** | | | | another | an additional or different person or thing | That ice-cream was good. Can I have **another**? | | anybody/anyone | no matter what person | Can **anyone** answer this question? | | anything | no matter what thing | The doctor needs to know if you have eaten **anything** in the last two hours. | | each | every one of two or more people or things, seen separately | **Each** has his own thoughts. | | either | one or the other of two people or things | Do you want tea or coffee? / I don't mind. **Either** is good for me. | | enough | as much or as many as needed | **Enough** is enough. | | everybody/everyone | all people | We can start the meeting because **everybody** has arrived. | | everything | all things | They have no house or possessions. They lost **everything** in the earthquake. | | less | a smaller amount | "**Less** is more" (Mies van der Rohe) | | little | a small amount | **Little** is known about his early life. | | much | a large amount | **Much** has happend since we met. | | neither | not one and not the other of two people or things | I keep telling Jack and Jill but **neither** believes me. | | nobody/no-one | no person | I phoned many times but **nobody** answered. | | nothing | no single thing, not anything | If you don't know the answer it's best to say **nothing**. | | one | an unidentified person | Can **one** smoke here? | All the students arrived but now **one** is missing. | | other | a different person or thing from one already mentioned | One was tall and the **other** was short. | | somebody/someone | an unspecified or unknown person | Clearly **somebody** murdered him. It was not suicide. | | something | an unspecified or unknown thing | Listen! I just heard **something**! What could it be? | | you | an unidentified person (informal) | And **you** can see why. | | **plural** | | | | both | two people or things, seen together | John likes coffee but not tea. I think **both** are good. | | few | a small number of people or things | **Few** have ever disobeyed him and lived. | | fewer | a reduced number of people or things | **Fewer** are smoking these days. | | many | a large number of people or things | **Many** have come already. | | others | other people; not us | I'm sure that **others** have tried before us. | | several | more than two but not many | They all complained and **several** left the meeting. | | they | people in general (informal) | **They** say that vegetables are good for you. | | **singular or plural** | | | | all | the whole quantity of something or of some things or people | **All** is forgiven. **All** have arrived. | | any | no matter how much or how many | Is **any** left? Are **any** coming? | | more | a greater quantity of something; a greater number of people or things | There is **more** over there. **More** are coming. | | most | the majority; nearly all | **Most** is lost. **Most** have refused. | | none | not any; no person or persons | They fixed the water so why is **none** coming out of the tap? I invited five friends but **none** have come.\* | | some | an unspecified quantity of something; an unspecified number of people or things | Here is **some**. **Some** have arrived. | | such | of the type already mentioned | He was a foreigner and he felt that he was treated as **such**. |   \* Some people say that "none" should always take a singular verb, even when talking about countable nouns (eg five friends). They argue that "none" means "no one", and "one" is obviously singular. They say that "I invited five friends but none **has** come" is correct and "I invited five friends but none **have** come" is incorrect. Historically and grammatically there is little to support this view. "None" has been used for hundreds of years with both a singular and a plural verb, according to the context and the emphasis required.  RESOURCES  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode71/languagepoint.shtml>  <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/pronouns-indefinite.htm> |