

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Talk about people and things without naming them.

1. READ: Looking for a phone

Read the conversation. Notice the bold words for people and things.

Jo: Has **anyone** seen my phone? I can't find it.

Max: There's **something** under that cushion. Is it yours?

Jo: No, it's a remote control. I've looked on the table, but there's **nothing** there.

Max: Maybe **someone** moved it. Have you asked Anna?

Jo: Yes. She says **everyone** left their phones in the kitchen before the game.

Max: Ah, let's look there. We can put **everything** away while we're at it.

2. GRAMMAR: People and things

Use -one / -body words for people and -thing words for things. These words take a singular verb.

Meaning	People	Things
An unspecified person / thing	someone / somebody	something
Questions / negatives	anyone / anybody	anything
All / none	everyone / no one	everything / nothing

Someone is at the door. **Everything is** ready. Not everyone are.

No one / nothing already have negative meaning: **I saw no one / I didn't see anyone.**

Offers often use **something**: **Would you like something to drink?**

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct word. The example answer is bold: Someone **is** / are at the door.

1. I'm hungry. I want someone / something to eat.
2. Did anyone / anything call while I was out?
3. I didn't buy something / anything.
4. Everyone is / are ready.
5. Nobody know / knows the answer.
6. Would you like something / someone to drink?
7. The room is empty. There is no one / anyone inside.
8. I have checked all the bags. Everything / Everyone is packed.

Read each answer aloud. Check the subject, the noun or the clue.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Before dinner

Use each word once: someone, anyone, everyone, something, anything, nothing.

Anna: There's (1) _____ at the door. Can you open it?

Ben: Just a second. I'm carrying (2) _____ hot from the oven.

Anna: I'll get it. It's Tom! Is (3) _____ else coming?

Ben: No. (4) _____ is here now. Let's eat.

Anna: Have we forgotten (5) _____? The food looks ready.

Ben: No, there's (6) _____ else to do. Let's sit down.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Correct the mistake.

Example: Everyone are here. **Everyone is here.**

1. Everything are ready.

2. Nobody want to leave.

3-4: Rewrite using the word in brackets. Keep the meaning. Example: I didn't see anyone. (no one) **I saw no one.**

3. I didn't buy anything. (nothing)

4. Ben spoke to no one. (anyone)

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three true sentences about today. Use a people word, a thing word and a negative meaning.

Example: **Someone called me. I learned something new. I haven't lost anything.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

1. Imagine a lost bag. Ask: **Has anyone seen it? Is anything missing?** Respond with details.

2. Plan a class picnic. Say what **everyone** needs and what **someone** can bring.

Check: **Is everything ready?**

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Looking for a phone

Sample target language from the conversation:

Jo: Has **anyone** seen my phone? I can't find it.

Max: There's **something** under that cushion. Is it yours?

Jo: No, it's a remote control. I've looked on the table, but there's **nothing** there.

Max: Maybe **someone** moved it. Have you asked Anna?

Jo: Yes. She says **everyone** left their phones in the kitchen before the game.

Max: Ah, let's look there. We can put **everything** away while we're at it.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. something | 2. anyone |
| 3. anything | 4. is |
| 5. knows | 6. something |
| 7. no one | 8. Everything |

B. COMPLETE: Before dinner

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. someone | 2. something |
| 3. anyone | 4. Everyone |
| 5. anything | 6. nothing |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. Everything is ready.
2. Nobody wants to leave.
3. I bought nothing.
4. Ben didn't speak to anyone.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: Someone called me. I learned something new. I haven't lost anything.

Teacher note: Someone/somebody, anyone/anybody and everyone/everybody are equivalent here. No one is two words. Use a singular verb after these pronouns. B uses each word once. In C3-4, use one negative pattern: no one/nothing or not ... anyone/anything.