

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

(Compulsory Supplementary Material for Beta Upper Module.
Suggested Supplementary Material for Gamma Intermediate Module.)

Indefinite pronouns are used to talk about unspecified people, things or places.

We use **somebody / someone / something / somewhere** in affirmative situations:

For example: **Somebody** is coming up in the lift.
There's **something** I forgot to tell you.
Let's go **somewhere** nice next weekend.

We use **anybody / anyone / anything / anywhere** with negatives:

For example: There wasn't **anybody** in the office.
I'm afraid we don't have **anything** to eat.
We didn't go **anywhere** last weekend.

...and in questions:

For example: Does **anyone** know how this machine works?
Was there **anything** interesting in Bob's letter?
Is there **anywhere** in this city I can go to have a good time tonight?

Note: The use of **any + thing, body, one, where, etc.** is grammatically correct in questions. However, if the answer you are expecting is affirmative you may prefer to use **some (+ thing, body, one, where, etc.)** instead. This is the case when making invitations, offering something or asking for things.

For example: Would you like something to drink?
Do you have something elegant to wear you could lend me?
Do you want to go somewhere tonight?

We use **nobody / no one / nothing / nowhere** when we wish to make statements that are definitely negative.

For example: **No one** told me I had to pay for it.
There was **nothing** else I could do, so, I left.
I couldn't find him. He was **nowhere**.

We use **everybody / everyone / everything / everywhere** in affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences to refer to all the objects, people and/or places involved in the action.

For example: **Everybody** helped me when I had the accident.
He brought **everything** I needed from the grocery store.
There is smog **everywhere** in Santiago.

EXERCISE 1. Fill in the blanks with **someone/somebody/something/somewhere** or **anyone/anybody/anything/anywhere**.

1. There is _____ in the bathroom.
2. Did _____ answer the telephone?
3. Come in. I have to tell you _____.
4. Is there _____ interesting to go to over the weekend?
5. _____ took my car keys.
6. I didn't say _____ at the meeting.
7. For me a good place to go on vacation is _____ by the sea.
8. She's sure her children are hiding _____ in the house.
9. I'm so hungry! I would eat _____.
10. I can do it by myself. I don't need _____ to help me.

EXERCISE 2. Fill in the blanks with **no one/nobody/nothing/nowhere** or **everyone/everybody/everything/everywhere**.

1. There is _____ left to eat.
2. I'll give it to _____ else.
3. _____ I like is illegal, immoral or fattening.
4. He invited _____ but just his closest friend came to the party.
5. I don't like this town. There is _____ to go out at night.
6. It's really depressing! I have _____ new in my closet!
7. We close at 6:00 so there is _____ at the office after that time.
8. _____ went to the Caribbean last summer. I met lots of friends there.
9. Let's have lunch! _____ is hungry.
10. I've lost my driving licence. I've looked _____ for it.

EXERCISE 3. Use the correct word from the ones given in parenthesis. Cross out the wrong alternative.
For example: There isn't (something/anything) to eat.

1. I'm sorry, but we can't do (anything/nothing) to help you.
2. Is there (somewhere/anywhere) in Santiago we can go horse riding?
3. I'm afraid (no one/anyone) remembers who he is.
4. I'm not sure where I put it, I think it is (everywhere/somewhere) in the kitchen.
5. There was (nothing/anything) left after the dinner party.
6. Please, don't tell (nobody/anybody). It's a secret.
7. He said there was (someone/anyone) in the garage.
8. She didn't say (nothing/anything) during the interview.
9. I don't want to go (anywhere/nowhere). I prefer to stay at home.
10. My boss said there was (something/anything) he wanted to go over before signing the contract.

EXERCISE 4. Complete these dialogs with the following words:

<i>anyone</i>	<i>anywhere</i>	<i>everywhere</i>	<i>nowhere</i>	<i>something</i>
<i>anything</i>	<i>somewhere</i>	<i>everybody</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>somebody</i>

1. A: What's the matter?
B: There's _____ in my eye.
2. A: Where did you go last night?
B: _____, I stayed home reading a book.
3. A: Was there _____ in the house?
B: I saw nobody.
4. A: Where is _____?
B: They are all having lunch in the Coffee Shop.
5. A: Where can I put my belongings?
B: Just put them _____ in my room.
6. A: Who do you want to speak with?
B: With _____ who can solve my problem.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

KEY CHECK

EXERCISE 1.

1. someone
2. anybody
3. something
4. anywhere
5. Someone
6. anything
7. *somewhere/anywhere
8. somewhere
9. *something/anything
10. anybody

EXERCISE 2.

1. nothing
2. somebody
3. Everything
4. everybody
5. nowhere
6. nothing
7. nobody
8. Everybody
9. Everybody
10. everywhere

EXERCISE 3.

1. anything
2. anywhere
3. no one
4. somewhere
5. nothing
6. anybody
7. someone
8. anything
9. anywhere
10. something

EXERCISE 4.

1. something
2. Nowhere
3. anybody
4. everybody
5. *somewhere/anywhere
6. *somebody/anybody

(*) ASK YOUR LAB TEACHER ABOUT THESE ALTERNATIVES