

16 Indefinite pronouns

Mum, I'm getting something to eat. Do you want anything?

1 Form

PEOPLE	someone/somebody	anyone/anybody	everyone/everybody	no one/nobody
THINGS	something	anything	everything	nothing
PLACES	somewhere	anywhere	everywhere	nowhere

We use a singular verb with all these pronouns.

Everything is expensive in Switzerland. Nobody lives on the moon.

! ~~X Everybody make mistakes.~~ ✓ Everybody **makes** mistakes.

2 Indefinite pronouns with some/any

We use indefinite pronouns to talk about a person, object or place. The exact person, object or place is not important:

	some	any	EXAMPLES
in positive sentences	✓	X	<i>I'll ask someone for help. He needs something for his computer.</i>
in negative sentences	X	✓	<i>I can't find anywhere to sit. There isn't anything on TV tonight.</i>
in most questions	X	✓	<i>Did you see anyone in town? Is there anything you want at the shop?</i>
when you ask for or offer something	✓	X	<i>Can I have something to drink? Would you like something to eat?</i>
when you suggest something	✓	X	<i>Let's go somewhere nice for a meal tonight.</i>

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3 Indefinite pronouns with no

We use *no one/nobody*, *nowhere* and *nothing* with positive verbs, but the meaning is negative: *There's nowhere to sit.* (= There isn't anywhere to sit.) *No one answered the phone.*

! We don't use two negatives in English:
~~X I didn't eat nothing.~~ ✓ I **didn't** eat **anything**.
~~X Nobody isn't here.~~ ✓ **Nobody is** here.

4 Indefinite pronouns with every

We use *everyone/everybody*, *everything* and *everywhere* when we mean 'all people', 'all things' or 'all places':

Everyone in the room stopped speaking. Everybody was very happy with the results. Is everything all right? I want to visit everywhere on the island.