11 Indefinite pronouns

> OK, **everybody**'s here, I think. Shall we order **something** to drink?
>
> Has **anyone** got a menu?
>
> Yes. I'd like **something cool**, with ice.

1 Indefinite pronouns

We use indefinite pronouns to talk about a person, thing or place, when we don't know who or what they are, or it is not important.

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

2 Use of indefinite pronouns

We use indefinite pronouns with *some* in positive sentences:
***Someone** will help you.* (It doesn't matter who.)
*My wallet is **somewhere** in this room.* (I don't know where exactly.)
We can use them in requests, offers or suggestions (➤ Unit 10.1):
*Shall we order **something** to drink?*

We usually use indefinite pronouns with *any* in questions and negative sentences:
*It's very dark – can you see **anything**? There isn't **anyone** at home.*

We use indefinite pronouns with *every* to mean 'all people/things/places':
*I've met **everyone** in the company now. **Everything** is ready.*
*Have you looked **everywhere** for your glasses?*

We use indefinite pronouns with *no* with positive verbs, but the meaning is negative:
*There was **no one** in the hotel who could help me.*

⚠ We don't use two negatives: ✗ No one wasn't there. ✓ **No one was** there.

3 Indefinite pronouns + verb

Indefinite pronouns take a singular verb when they are the subject of a sentence:
***Someone's** waiting outside. **Something smells** good! What are you cooking?*
***Has anyone** got a menu? 'What would you like to drink?' '**Anything is** fine. I'm really thirsty.'*
***Nobody was** at home. **No one expects** you to be perfect.*
***Everything** here **is** expensive. Is **everyone** here?*

4 Other uses

We often use adjectives after indefinite pronouns: *I'd like **something cool**, with ice.*
*Is there **anywhere quiet** round here? We need **someone reliable** for this job.*

We also use *to* + verb after indefinite pronouns: *Shall we order **something to drink**?*
*There's **nowhere to sit** inside the restaurant – it's full. I haven't got **anything to wear**.*

We often use *else* after indefinite pronouns. It means 'another person/thing/place' or 'a different person/thing/place':
*This club is boring. Let's go **somewhere else**.* (to another club)
*Don't you have **anything else** on the menu?* (something different)