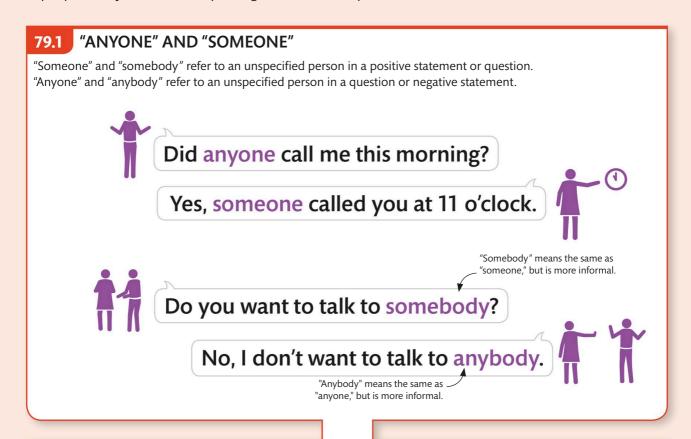
79 Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns, such as "anyone," "someone," and "everyone," are used to refer to a person or object, or a group of people or objects, without explaining who or what they are.

See also: Present simple 1 Forming questions 34



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Is someone working late?



Can somebody carry my bag?



I gave somebody a flower.



Someone gave me a present



I didn't give anybody your name.



Did anyone buy a gift for Mrs. Tan?

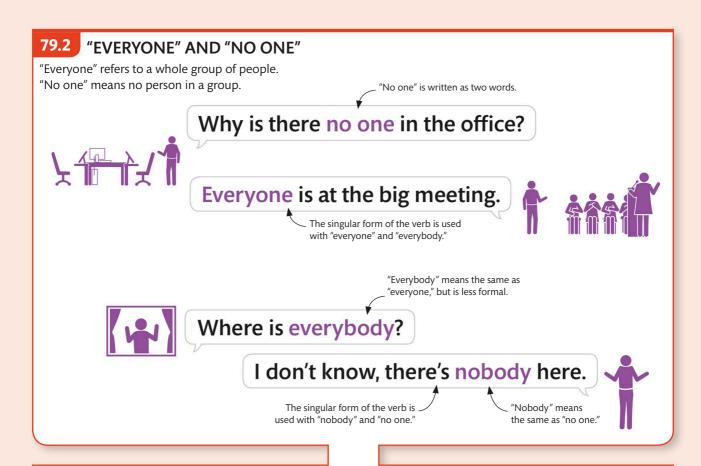


I don't know anyone in this town.



Did anybody here send me this letter?





FURTHER EXAMPLES

Nobody wants to come with me.



I'm at the park with everyone if you'd like to join us.

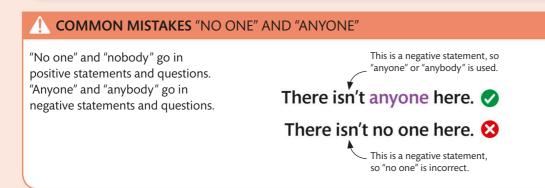


Everybody has some kind of special skill.



There was nobody but me at work until 10am.





79.3 "SOMETHING" AND "ANYTHING"

"Something" and "anything" refer to an unspecified or unnamed object or thing. "Something" can only be used in questions and positive statements, whereas "anything" can be used in negative statements as well as questions and positive statements.

Here "something" has a more general meaning, as the speaker may not have a specific thing in mind.

Can I have something to eat?

Yes, have something from the cupboard.

Here "something" refers to a specific, unnamed thing that the speaker has in mind.



The singular form of the verb is used with "anything" and "something."

Is there anything I can help with?

No, there isn't anything you can do.

This statement is negative, so "anything" is used, not "something."

FURTHER EXAMPLES

"Anything" used in positive statements shows the possibilities are unlimited.

Have anything you want



Anything baked by my grandmother tastes delicious.



There's something I need to tell you.



We don't have anything in common.



Something that I've always enjoyed is kayaking with my friends.



I know I've forgotten something but I can't think what it is.



I'd do anything to be able to sing like her.



Something spooky happened last night.



79.4 "NOTHING" AND "EVERYTHING"

"Nothing" means that there are no available objects or things.

Tim and James have nothing in common

"Everything" means all the possible objects or things

are available.

Tim and Dan do everything together.

There is no single thing that Tim and lames have in common.

The verb is positive.



Where "nothing" is used in a positive statement, "anything" can be used in a negative statement with the same meaning.

There's nothing I want to buy here.



[There isn't anything I want to buy here.]

The verb is negative.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

There's nothing I love more than a sunny day.



I want to see everything at the museum.



Everything is going well at the moment.



I know absolutely nothing about Geography.



Nothing at the exhibition was any good.



I do everything to the best of my ability.



I love that new Italian restaurant. Everything tastes so good!



Nothing interests me about politics.



