

7.6 Indefinite pronouns

We use indefinite pronouns to talk about non-specific people, objects or places.

All indefinite pronouns are used with singular verb forms.

Everybody is fashionable in their own way.

People	Things	Places
someone/somebody	something	somewhere
anyone/anybody	anything	anywhere
no one/nobody	nothing	nowhere
everyone/everybody	everything	everywhere

We use **someone/somebody, something, somewhere** in affirmative sentences and requests/offers:

Somebody has left their receipt on the counter.

We use **anybody/anyone, anything, anywhere** in negative sentences and questions:

I haven't bought **anything** made of leather for a long time.

We use **no one/nobody, nothing, nowhere** in affirmative sentences with a negative meaning:

I'm not going to the shopping centre today. There will be **nowhere** to park.

We do not use another negative in a clause with *nobody, no one, nothing, nowhere*.

We use **none (of)** when we talk about three or more objects or people. We don't use nouns after **none**:

I was looking for some comfortable high heels but I found **none**.

We use an article + noun after **none of** (the people), a possessive adjective (my friends) or a personal pronoun (us). Plural nouns are followed by singular or plural verb forms:

None of her children **is/are** into trade.

We can modify indefinite pronouns with:

- to infinitive:
There is **nobody to go** window shopping with me.
- an adjective:
Joan needs to go **somewhere quiet** to rest after work.
- a relative pronoun (who, which, that):
A debtor is **somebody who** has spent more money than he or she has got.

1 Choose the correct option.

- There isn't a post office everywhere / anywhere near here.
- He was looking for some T-shirts for his holiday, but he found *none* / *some*.
- I don't think the shop is closed. I can see *someone* / *anyone* in there.
- There's *anything* / *nothing* to buy here. Let's go to another shop.
- Gyms have become very popular – they're *somewhere* / *everywhere*.
- When I can't find *something* / *anything* I want in the shops, I go online.
- I'm sure there's a florist's here *somewhere* / *anywhere*.
- I never go to that newsagent's. *Someone* / *Everyone* there is so rude!

2 Complete the sentences with the correct word in the box.

anybody anywhere everything nothing
somebody somewhere

- Do you know _____ that is a billionaire?
- It's sunny today, but I think I saw _____ wearing wellington boots.
- I'm not saying I like _____ in the jeweller's, but there are a lot of nice things.
- Honestly, there was _____ in the clothes shop that suited me.
- Oh, no! I've lost my ballet flats. They could be _____.
- I know they make green Dr Martens so they have to sell them _____.

3 Complete the text with appropriate indefinite pronouns.

It's a fact that ¹_____ I know wears designer clothes or has a special look which makes them cool. But no matter what I wear I always look unfashionable or scruffy. Maybe it's ²_____ to do with my hairstyle – who knows? Last week, for example, I tried to buy a new pair of glasses. I looked ³_____ for a pair that suited me and went to every optician I could find. And, surprise surprise, I didn't buy ⁴_____. Is there ⁵_____ in this whole town that sells the things I want to make me look good? Maybe there is ⁶_____ that looks like me and I have to find an original and unique style all of my own.

4 UNIT REVIEW Choose the answer, A, B or C, that is closest in meaning to the words in bold.

- There isn't anything tasty** in my local baker's.
A There is nothing tasty
B Not everything is tasty
C There is nothing as tasty
- Is it possible for a person to walk** in such high heels?
A Can nobody walk
B Can everybody walk
C Can anybody walk
- None of the people I know like** to buy clothes in a vintage shop.
A No one I know likes
B Not everybody I know likes
C Somebody I know likes
- These trainers are **cheaper than usual**.
A on offer B not worth it
C an investment
- There are some** schoolboys at the checkout desk.
A There are few B There are a few
C There are very little
- Professional footballers **earn too much**, in my opinion.
A pay too much
B are paid too much
C paid too much