

Talking about quantities

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_2217G

LANGUAGE
English

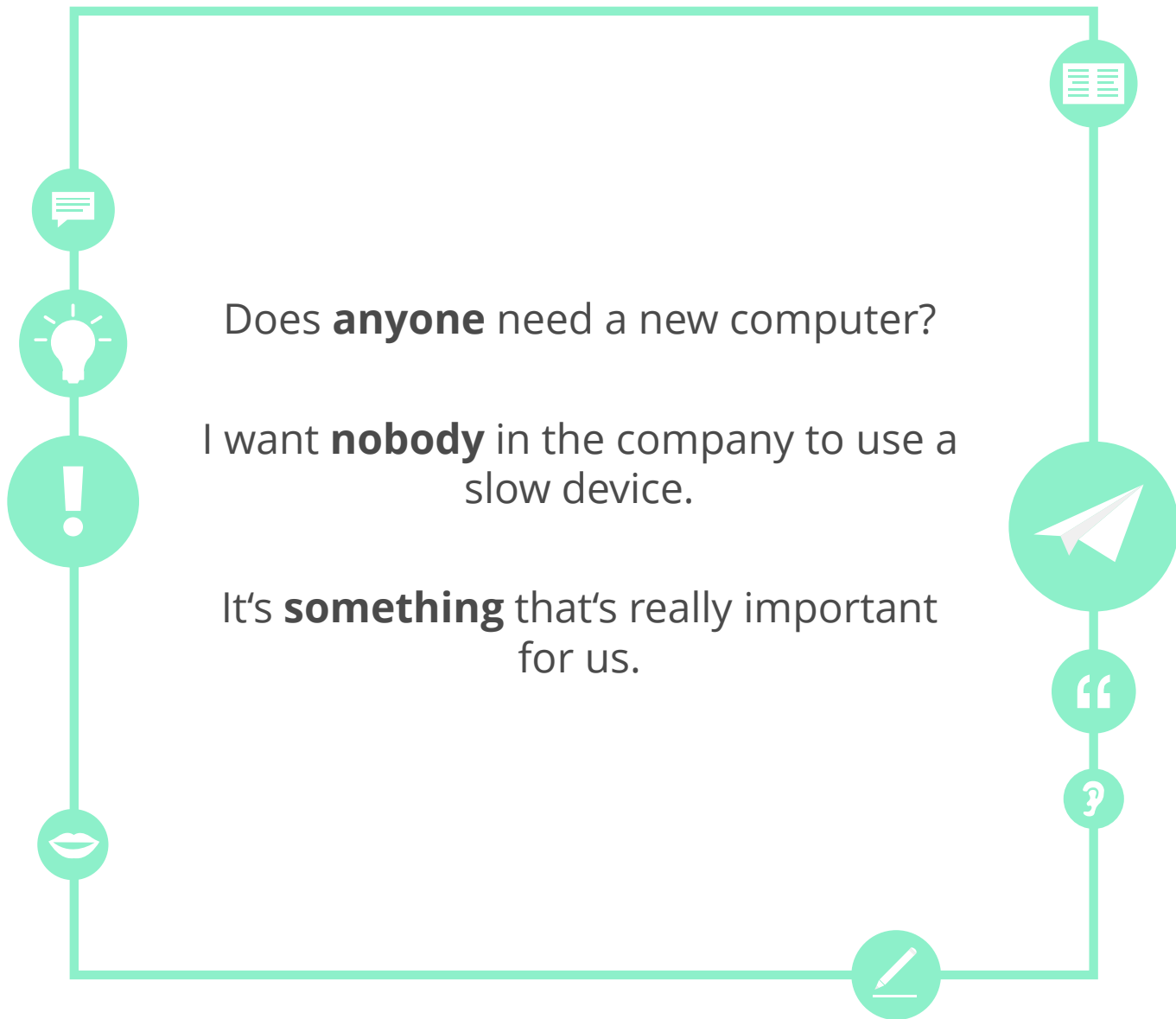




Goals

- Can determine when to use indefinite pronouns relating to people and things.
- Can engage in conversation using indefinite pronouns in the context of buying and selling.







Warm-up

In this lesson, you will learn about **indefinite pronouns** to refer to a **non-specific person** or **thing**.



Is there **anybody** out there who can help us?



When do we use these quantifiers? Write a sentence with each

any

some

much

many



And compare!

Now, compare your answers with a partner.

Then, share them with your teacher



Everyone or everybody

We can use **everyone** or **everybody** to talk about a **complete quantity** when referring to people.

For example:

Everyone

Everyone enjoyed themselves last night.

They all had a great time.

Everybody

Everybody in the office wants to go to the party.

They will all go to it, for sure.



Someone or somebody

Someone and **somebody** refer to a person without specifying **which** person it is. Take a look at these examples:

Someone

I know **someone** who can help you prepare for the meeting.

Somebody

Is that **somebody** at the door?



Anyone or Anybody

Similarly, **anyone** or **anybody** can be used in place of **some-** in **questions** and **negative sentences**.

The indefinite pronouns ending in **-body** are a little **more formal**.

Anyone

Can **anyone** help me with my project?

Anybody

I don't know **anybody** who works at that company.



No one or nobody

With the **no-** prefix, you can describe an **emptiness** or **lack of** something.

Look at these examples:

No one

No one showed up to our work dinner last night. The table was empty.

Nobody

Nobody ever comes to visit me at my desk!



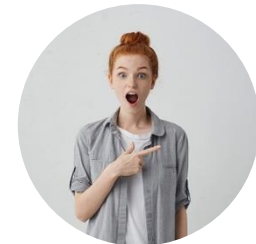
Let's look at some examples

- Here are some examples of the indefinite pronouns related to people.



Everyone in the office enjoyed the presentation.

Someone in this room asked me a question.



Does **anyone** have any questions?

No one understood what I said.





Complete the sentences

Fill in the gaps using the correct indefinite pronoun.

Some sentences may be compatible with more than one answer

1. The hall was empty. _____ was there.
2. _____ loved your presentation!
The entire room was enjoying it.
3. Just about _____ uses a smart phone these days.
4. Does _____ know a good designer?
5. _____ forgot their keys last night!
6. _____ ever sent me an email about this, so how could I know?
7. Is there _____ out there?
8. I think _____ broke into my house.

anybody

someone

no one

everybody

everyone

anyone

nobody

somebody



Take a look at these sentences

How are these sentences different? Discuss with a partner and ask your teacher for help



Someone forgot their keys last night!

≠



Everyone forgot their keys last night.



Does anyone know a good designer?

≠



Does nobody know a good designer??



Complete the dialogue



Good morning Daniel! Is **anyone** planning an event for your work anniversary?

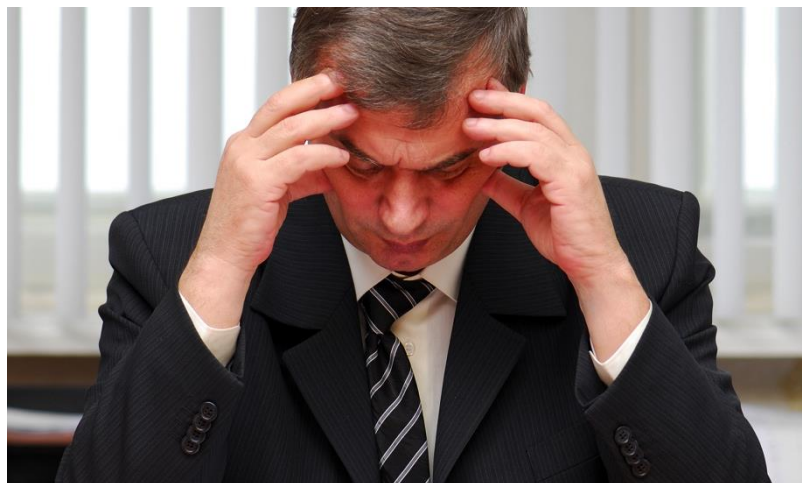
Well... I think **everyone** would love to have a party!

Hi Carla. I think so but I haven't decided what yet.



Indefinite pronouns for things

As with the vocabulary relating to people, these pronouns begin with **any-**, **some-**, **no-** and **every-**



I forget **everything** you tell me.



Everything

Everything is the complete amount of something, the whole, or the total of a topic or thing.

Take a look at the examples below:

Thank you for your help with **everything**.

Everything changed when John left the company.

We lost **everything** in the fire.

How is **everything**?



Something and anything

Something refers to a thing that is not known, or not important. It is mostly used in **affirmative sentences**.

Anything is mainly used in questions and negative sentences.

Something

Was it **something** important to him?

James likes **something** about Ireland, but I can't remember what!

Anything

I don't think there is **anything** you can do.

Are you doing **anything** this Friday?



Nothing

Nothing means **not anything**, or the absence of something.

Have a look at these examples:

Ben prepared **nothing** for the test.

It's **nothing**. Barely even a problem!





Grammar examples

- Here are example sentences for the indefinite pronouns for things.



Everything you can do to lower costs will help.

Anything with finance is important.



There is **something** wrong with the email.

Nothing is in stock, so I couldn't place the order.





Complete the sentence

1. Is there _____ I can do to help you?

- a. everyone b. anything c. everything d. no one

2. I would like _____ more than a solution.

- a. nothing b. everything c. anything d. everybody

3. It felt like _____ in the office was at the concert, it was so busy!

- a. somebody b. nobody c. anybody d. everyone

4. We asked _____ for information, but they couldn't help us.

- a. no one b. someone c. something d. anyone



Describe the pictures

Describe each scene to your teacher using one of the provided indefinite pronouns

Everybody/
Anything



Someone/
Anyone



Nobody/
Nothing



Everything/
Something

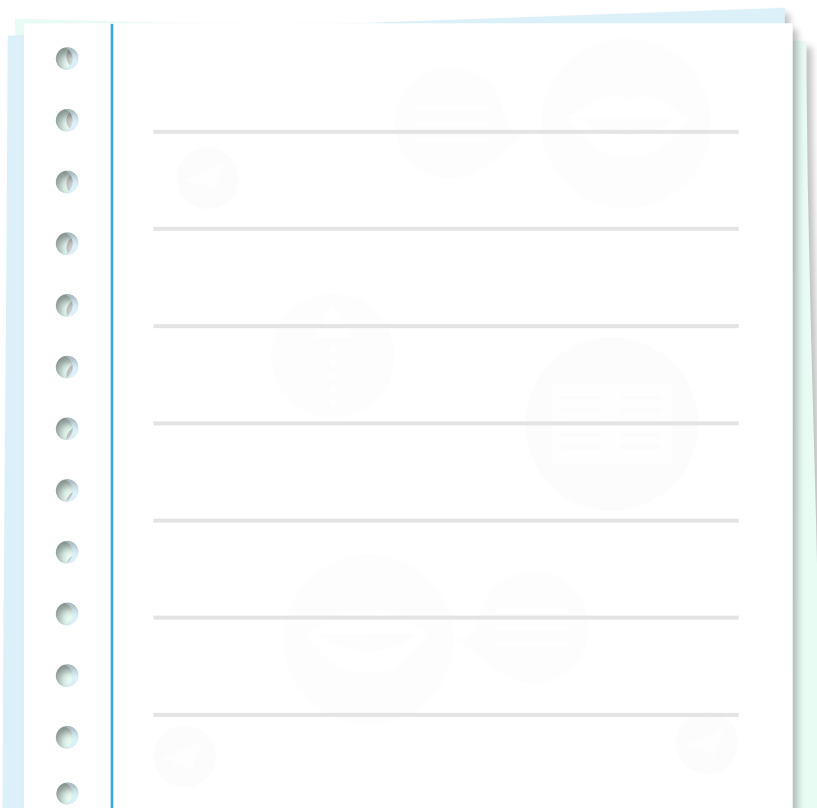




Finish the story

Take one of the images from the last slide.

Finish the story in 5 sentences.





Indefinite pronouns when buying and selling

- Here are some useful phrases for buying and selling in a business environment.



Is there **anything** you recommend?

There is **nothing** on the market better than this.



Is there **something** I can do to help?

Is there **anyone** I can talk to about this matter?





Make an enquiry

You need to buy 500 new computers for your office. Make a phone enquiry. Use the phrases below to help you



Is there **someone** else I can speak to?

Nobody has been able to help me so far.

Is there **nothing** you can do about the price?

Thank you so much for **everything**!

Is there **something** similar that is cheaper?

I was looking for **somebody** who could help me with an enquiry.

Is there **anything** you can recommend?

Is there **anybody** in your department who can give me a discount?

Everyone recommended this model.



Place an order

Your manager has asked you to complete one last job before you go home.

Call the supplier and ask for recommendations. Use the previous task to help you



Can you call the equipment supplier today?

I'd like you to **make an enquiry** about something to make the office cooler.

Get a **quote** on **three** different air conditioning units for me and we can talk about it in the morning.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

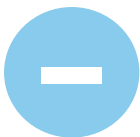
no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Ex2, p.20

1B, 2A, 3D, 4B

8. Somebody
7. Anybody
6. No one
5. Someone
4. Anyone
3. Everyone/everybody
2. Everybody/everyone
1. Nobody

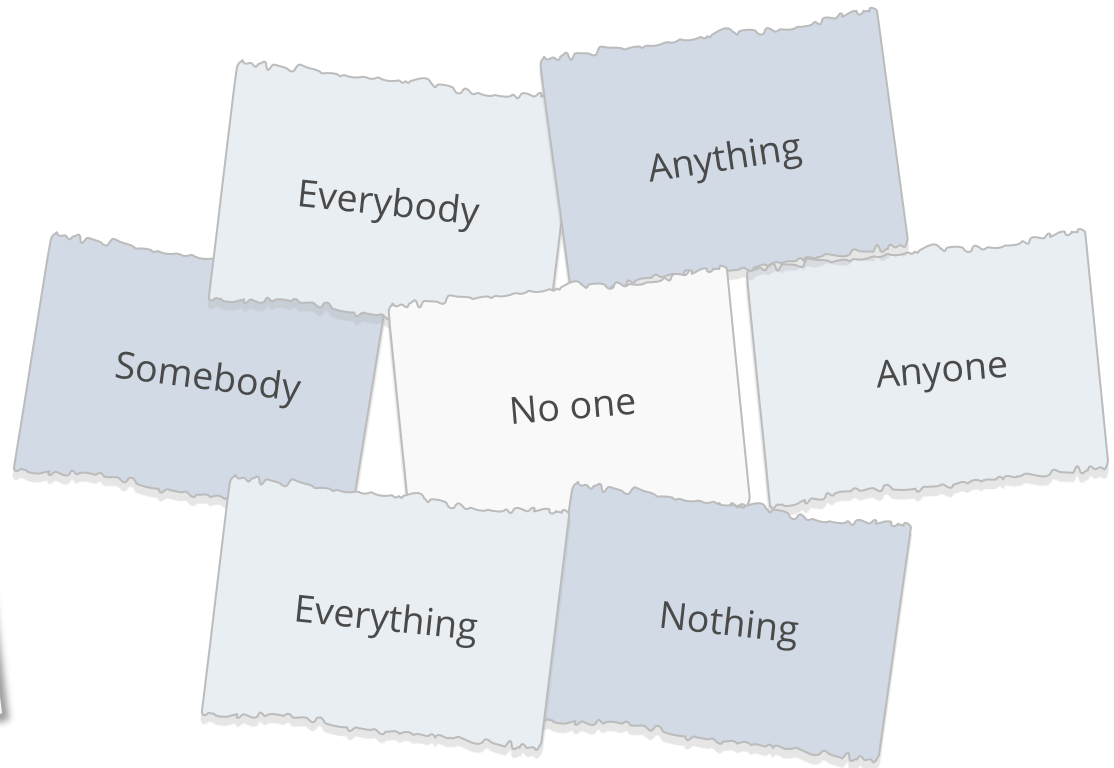
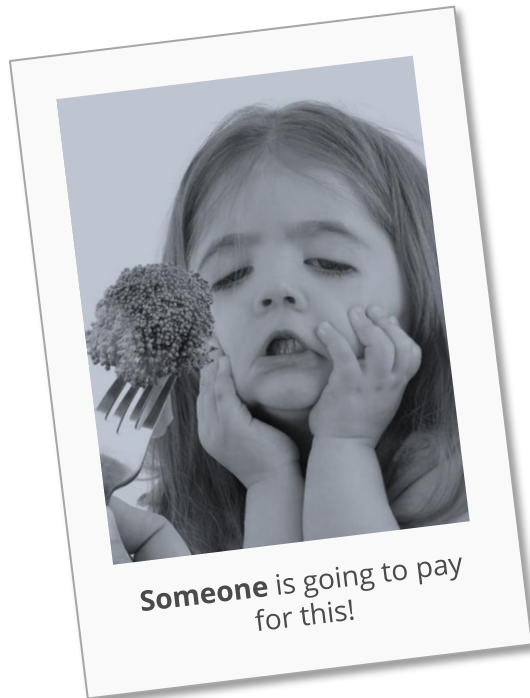
Ex1, p.12





Write sentences

Match each indefinite pronoun to the picture by describing what the person is thinking in a sentence





Write a story

Try to use each of the indefinite pronouns below in a story.
The first one has been done for you as an example.
Be as creative as possible.

something

anything

somebody

nothing

nobody

everything



I woke up before my alarm, and
realised **something** was wrong...





Homework answer key



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