INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to a specific person, place, or thing. In English, there is a particular group of indefinite pronouns formed with a quantifier or distributive preceeded by *any, some, every*and *no*.

|  | **Person** | **Place** | **Thing** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **All** | everyone everybody | everywhere | everything |
| **Part (positive)** | someone somebody | somewhere | something |
| **Part (negative)** | anyone anybody | anywhere | anything |
| **None** | no one nobody | nowhere | nothing |

Indefinite pronouns with  *some* and *any* are used to [describe indefinite and incomplete quantities](http://www.ef.com/english-resources/english-grammar/indefinite-and-incomplete-quantities/) in the same way that *some* and *any* are used alone.

Indefinite pronouns are placed in the same location as a noun would go in the sentence.

| **Noun** | **Indefinite pronoun** |
| --- | --- |
| I would like to go **to Paris** this summer. | I would like to go **somewhere** this summer. |
| **Jim** gave me this book. | **Someone** gave me this book. |
| I won't tell your secret to **Sam**. | I won't tell your secret to **anyone**. |
| I bought **my school supplies** at the mall. | I bought **everything** at the mall. |

AFFIRMATIVE

In affirmative sentences, indefinite pronouns using *some* are used to describe an indefinite quantity, the indefinite pronouns with *every* are used to describe a complete quantity, and the pronouns with *no* are used to describe an absence. Indefinite pronouns with *no* are often used in affirmative sentences with a negative meaning, but these are nevertheless not negative sentences because they are lacking the word *not*.

EXAMPLES

* **Everyone** is sleeping in my bed.
* **Someone** is sleeping in my bed.
* **No one** is sleeping in my bed.
* I gave **everything** to Sally.
* He saw **something** in the garden.
* There is **nothing** to eat.
* I looked **everywhere** for my keys.
* Keith is looking for **somewhere** to live.
* There is **nowhere** as beautiful as Paris.

*Any* and the indefinite pronouns formed with it can also be used in affirmative sentences with a meaning that is close to *every*: whichever person, whichever place, whichever thing, etc.

EXAMPLES

* They can choose **anything** from the menu.
* You may invite **anybody** you want to your birthday party.
* We can go **anywhere** you'd like this summer.
* He would give **anything** to get into Oxford.
* Fido would follow you **anywhere**.

NEGATIVE SENTENCES

Negative sentences can only be formed with the indefinite pronouns that include *any*.

EXAMPLES

* I don't have **anything** to eat.
* She didn't go **anywhere** last week.
* I can't find **anyone** to come with me.

Many negative sentences that include an indefinite pronoun with *any* can be turned into affirmative sentences with a negative meaning by using an indefinite pronoun with *no*. However, there is a change in meaning with this transformation: the sentence that includes an indefinite pronoun with *no* is stronger, and can imply emotional content such as definsiveness, hopelessness, anger, etc.

EXAMPLES