

English Grammar – Some / Any

The words “some” and “any” are both used to say “algum(as)/um pouco de” – an undefined quantity. So, you have two options:

1. Say exact quantity: I want a small cup of coffee. / I want 100ml of coffee.
2. Say undefined quantity: I want some coffee.

(If you say “I want coffee”, you will be understood, but native speakers don’t say this!)

Here is the rule:

- Some:** Used in positive sentences.
Any: Used in negative sentences and questions.

Examples:

- There are **some** books on the table.
- There aren’t **any** books on the table.
- Are there **any** books on the table?
- I have **some** money.
- I don’t have **any** money.
- Do you have **any** money?
- I don’t have **any** photographs in my living room, but I have **some** paintings.
- A: Are there **any** German students in your class?
B: No, but there are **some** French students.

Exercise 1. Choose “**some**” or “**any**”:

1. Do you have _____ coffee?
2. I like _____ rock groups, but not all.
3. I don’t have _____ money. I’m poor!
4. Yuk! There are _____ insects in my sandwich!
5. There aren’t _____ people in the park today.
6. _____ people like rock music and _____ people like classical music.
7. Are there _____ cars in the garage?
8. Does he have _____ friends?

Video suggestion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK5u1ktXcQY> (6 mins)

Something / Anything = *alguma coisa*

Someone / Somebody / Anyone / Anybody = *alguém*

Somewhere / Anywhere = *algum lugar*

Here is the rule:

Something, Someone, Somebody, Somewhere: Used in positive sentences.

Anything, Anyone, Anybody, Anywhere: Used in negative sentences and questions.

Examples:

- There is **something** in my shoe.
- There isn't **anything** good to eat in the fridge.
- Is there **anyone** at home? / Is there **anybody** at home?
- I need **someone** to help me. / I need **somebody** to help me.
- Peter is **somewhere**, but I don't know where.
- Is there **anywhere** where we can speak alone?

Exercise 2. Choose from: **something, anything, someone, anyone, somebody, anybody, somewhere, anywhere.**

1. I don't have _____ to do today.
2. I don't have _____ to go today.
3. I need _____ to drink!
4. He doesn't know _____ in his new school. (*people*)
5. (*Telephone*) Hello! Hello! Is there _____ there?
6. I need _____ to teach me French.
7. Excuse me. Can you help me? I'm looking for _____ to sit.
8. Do you have _____ to drink?
9. Let's go _____ to talk privately.
10. I would like to speak with _____ about customer service.

Song suggestions:

Queen – Somebody to love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj69iA_golk (5 mins)

Pink Floyd – Is There Anybody Out There?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBe82KiBRYk> (3 mins)