

DETERMINERS 'SOME' AND 'ANY'

Determiners are words, which introduce noun phrases. They can be articles (*a* friend), demonstrative adjectives (*this* friend) or **quantifiers** (*some* friend and *any* friend). The latter determiner, as the term indicates, tells us something about quantity.

There are a variety of different quantifiers, but they are commonly grouped as follows: 'some and any'; 'much, many, a lot of, (a) little, (a) few'; 'no and none'; 'all and every'; 'both, either, neither', and others. When speaking and writing, whenever we use a noun, deciding whether a quantifier is necessary, and which one for that matter, may often have to be made. These notes focus specifically on quantifiers '**some** and **any**', and how they are used.

STUDY TIPS

While both **some** or **any** refer to an indefinite quantity, remember that **some** means 'part or not all of something', and **any** means 'all or none of something'.

Also, **some** is commonly used with affirmative statements, while **any** with negative and question sentences.

Quantifiers – 'some' and 'any'

Deciding which quantifier to use depends on a number of factors, including the grammar, the meaning conveyed and sometimes how formally we are speaking or writing. The tables below summarise this information.

SOME		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ indicates there is an indefinite quantity of something or an indefinite number of things or people ❑ usually used in affirmative statements ❑ used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns ❑ used in both stressed and unstressed forms 		
Grammatical Structure	Example	Meaning/Use
some + { plural or uncountable noun some /səm/ unstressed	I left some apples on the table. They did some homework in the Learning Centre today.	referring to an indefinite quantity
offer requests } + some + ? plural or uncountable nouns can be used; some /səm/ unstressed	Would you like some tea? [also: Would you like any tea?] Shall I order some biscuits? Could I have some milk, please? [but not: Could I have any milk, please?] [please?]	in reference to offers, requests, invitations, suggestions; can be used in question sentences, where a 'yes' answer is expected
some + { plural or uncountable noun some is stressed /s m/	Jill likes some vegetables. There was some water in the kettle. John can't eat some types of dairy products.	refers to a limited quantity or type of something; used in both affirmative and negative sentences, as well as questions

Grammatical Structure	Example	Meaning/Use
some + countable noun some is stressed /s m/	I spoke to some consultant over the phone. I got it from some shop.	used when emphasizing that the identity of someone or something is unknown, or the identity is irrelevant
'if' – clauses if + some + { plural or uncountable noun	If you need some money, please let me know.	talking about a hypothetical quantity or amount
some + of + noun phrase	Some of the tickets were sold. I drank some of the tea.	used when referring to a certain quantity of a group of things, or when it is a part of something
some + a number	The beach is some twenty kilometres from the city.	indicating you are not completely accurate
opposite of some is no or not ... any	I bought some fish but couldn't get any chips. I bought some fish, but there were no chips left.	indicating an opposite meaning
Collocations		
some + abstract uncountable nouns	advice, confidence, courage, education, experience, grammar, happiness, help, homework, honesty, importance, information, intelligence, justice, knowledge, laughter, luck, music, news, patience, peace, progress, significance, space, time, vocabulary, work	
some + concrete uncountable nouns	<i>group of similar items:</i> baggage, cash, clothing, equipment, food, fruit, furniture, jewellery, luggage, mail, money, traffic <i>fluids:</i> blood, coffee, milk, petrol, soup, tea, water <i>solids:</i> bread, butter, cheese, cotton, glass, gold, iron, paper <i>gases:</i> air, nitrogen, oxygen, pollution, smoke <i>particles:</i> dirt, dust, flour, grass, hair, pepper, rice, salt, sand, sugar, wheat <i>languages:</i> Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Thai <i>fields of study:</i> accounting, business, chemistry, economics, engineering, finance, literature, mathematics, psychology <i>activities:</i> driving, jogging, jumping, running, snorkelling, studying, surfing, swimming, travelling, walking <i>natural phenomena:</i> fire, fog, hail, heat, humidity, lightning, rain, snow, sunshine, thunder, wind	

Collocations - continued	
phrases	<p>some time = a lengthy period of time or at an unspecified time We haven't seen them for some time. I'll be in Sydney some time this evening.</p> <p>some more = an extra quantity/amount of something The chocolate cake is divine. Would you like some more?</p> <p>and then some = an informal expression which is used to emphasise that the quantity of something is even more If I had to guess there were 5,000 teenagers and then some at the concert.</p> <p>to some extent = partly I would agree with you to some extent but the other issues regarding the ID card are far more important.</p> <p>some day = an unspecified time in the future I'd like to meet David Beckham some day.</p>

ANY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indicates an indefinite quantity of something, or a quantity of something which may or may not exist <input type="checkbox"/> usually used in negative statements and questions <input type="checkbox"/> usually used with plural and uncountable nouns <input type="checkbox"/> used in both stressed and unstressed forms 		
Grammatical Structure	Example	Meaning/Use
any + { plural or uncountable noun } + ? (question sentences)	Are there any biscuits left? Do you have any information on that?	asking about a quantity without specifying, or asking whether something exists
not + any + { plural or uncountable noun } (negative statements) <i>no</i> may be used instead of <i>not ... any</i>	There aren't any tickets available. Not even one. Christine doesn't speak any Chinese. None at all. John doesn't have any patience with his students. John has no patience with his students.	when saying something doesn't exist in formal, written English the <i>no</i> structure is preferred
any + { singular, plural or uncountable noun } any is stressed /' ni/ (affirmative and negative statements, and questions)	You may borrow any book. Are there any cakes left? I don't eat any meat.	referring to a unrestricted or unlimited quantity or choice

Grammatical Structure	Example	Meaning/Use
'if' – clauses if + any + {plural or uncountable noun}	If you have any questions, you can ask the counsellor.	talking about a hypothetical quantity or amount
any + of + noun phrase	Do you have any of his CDs?	referring to an unspecified number of people or things, or to part of something
Collocations		
any + abstract uncountable nouns	advice, confidence, courage, education, experience, grammar, happiness, help, homework, honesty, importance, information, intelligence, justice, knowledge, laughter, luck, music, news, patience, peace, progress, significance, space, time, vocabulary, work	
any + concrete uncountable nouns	<i>group of similar items:</i> baggage, cash, clothing, equipment, food, fruit, furniture, jewellery, luggage, mail, money, traffic <i>fluids:</i> blood, coffee, milk, petrol, soup, tea, water <i>solids:</i> bread, butter, cheese, cotton, glass, gold, iron, paper <i>gases:</i> air, nitrogen, oxygen, pollution, smoke <i>particles:</i> dirt, dust, flour, grass, hair, pepper, rice, salt, sand, sugar, wheat <i>languages:</i> Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Thai <i>fields of study:</i> accounting, business, chemistry, economics, engineering, finance, literature, mathematics, psychology <i>activities:</i> driving, jogging, jumping, running, snorkelling, studying, surfing, swimming, travelling, walking <i>natural phenomena:</i> fire, fog, hail, heat, humidity, lightning, rain, snow, sunshine, thunder, wind	
adverbs with negative meaning	never any , hardly any , rarely any The bakery rarely has any bread left after 10:00 am.	
'without'	without any The matter was attended to without any problems.	
phrases	in any event = whatever the situation may be, something will happen I might come to the party, but in any event I'll let you know. in any case = also, in addition but actually emphasises what follows as it's the most important piece of information I won't be going rock climbing with you, and in any case , I'm afraid of heights. by any chance = a polite way of asking a question or requesting something which might be true Do you speak English, by any chance ? any day now = soon Have you heard from Sue? No, but we're expecting a call any day now . with any luck = an expression used to describe something you're hoping for With any luck , you might win tonight's lottery.	