

B In many contexts either every or each is possible, but there is a difference in meaning. Every customer means 'all the customers' and implies a large number. Each customer is greeted at the door means all the customers seen as individuals, as if we are thinking of greeting them one by one.

The following examples show the difference in meaning between every and each, although either word is possible in these contexts.

- On the tape I could hear every word clearly. (all the words, everything that was said)
The student had to look up each word in a dictionary. (all the words one by one)
Every child is conditioned by its environment. (all children in general)
Each child was given a medal with his or her name on. (all the children individually)

Every usually suggests a larger number than each. Each refers to two or more things, but every refers to three or more.

- United scored a goal in each half/both halves.
Missiles were being thrown from every direction/all directions.

We often use every to talk about things happening at regular intervals.

- The noise wakes me up every morning.
I go to the gym every Thursday.
Each is possible here but less usual.
In these examples expressing frequency, we use every but not each.
The meetings are every four weeks. (= at intervals of four weeks)
We visit my mother every other weekend. (= every second weekend/on alternate weekends)

C We can use almost or nearly with every but not with each.

- There were flags flying from almost every building.
Every single means 'every one without exception'.
No one was left out. Every single child was given a medal.

D We can use each (but not every) in these patterns.

- Each of the students has a personal tutor.
Before the visitors left, we gave them each/each of them a souvenir.
The winners each received a prize.

But we can use every one of + noun phrase. This emphasizes the fact that there are no exceptions.

- Every one of the students has a personal tutor.
We gave every one of them a souvenir.
For the difference between every one (two words) and everyone (one word), > 180B Note a.

Each as an adverb can come after a noun.
The tickets are £10 each.

E We cannot use a negative verb after every or each. Instead we use none and a positive verb.

- None of the doors was/were locked. (NOT Every/Each door wasn't locked.)
But not every means 'fewer than all'.
Not every door was locked. Some of them were open. (NOT Not each door was locked.)

172 Some, any, and no

A Some/any expressing a quantity

Some with a plural or uncountable noun is equivalent to a/an with a singular noun. > 157

- You'll need some wood, a hammer, and some nails.
Here some is usually pronounced /səm/ or /sm/.

Some expresses a positive quantity. Some nails means 'a number of nails'. But any does not have this positive meaning. We use any mainly in negatives and questions.

- Positive: I've got some nails.
Negative: I haven't got any nails.
Question: Have you got any/some nails?

In a negative sentence we use any rather than some. This includes sentences with negative words like never and hardly.

- I never seem to have any spare time.
We've won hardly any games this season.

Any is more usual in questions.

- Have you got any nails? ~ Yes. / No. / I don't know.
Did you catch any fish? ~ Yes, lots. / Yes, a few. / No, we didn't.

But we use some to give the question a more positive tone, especially when making an offer or request. It may suggest that we expect the answer yes.

- Did you catch some fish? (= I expect you caught some fish.)
Would you like some cornflakes? (= Have some cornflakes.)
Could you lend me some money? (= Please lend me some money.)

In an if-clause we can use either some or any.

- If you need some/any help, please let me know.

We can use any in a main clause to express a condition.

- Any problems will be dealt with by our agent.
(= If there are any problems, they will be dealt with by our agent.)

NOTE

In a negative sentence or a question we can sometimes use any with a singular noun.

- I wrote to the company, but I didn't get a reply / any reply.
Do you have a view/any view on the matter?
Any is rather more emphatic than a here. In the first example we can use any to emphasize the fact that there was no reply. But in general a/an is more usual. We say I haven't got a

mobile rather than I haven't got any mobile. For any with a singular noun meaning 'it doesn't matter which', > E.

B Someone or anyone, something or anything, etc

We choose between someone/anyone, etc in the same way as we choose between some and any.

- Someone has been trying to kill me.
Polite complaints weren't getting me anywhere.
Have you got anything/something suitable to wear?
Could you do something for me?
For more details about someone etc, > 180.

C No

No is a negative word. We can use it with singular, plural, and uncountable nouns.

- I'm afraid there is simply no alternative.
There are no rivers in Saudi Arabia.
We had no coffee, so we drank tea.
A sentence like There is no alternative is more emphatic than There isn't an alternative or There isn't any alternative. (For any + singular noun, > A Note.)

Compare these two sentences.

- No warning was given. A warning was not given.

We cannot use a subject with any to express this idea.

- (NOT Any warning was not given.)

NOTE

For no and none, > 174C.

D Some expressing part of a quantity

Compare these two meanings of some.

- Quantity: There were some people in the studio. /sm/ 'a number of people'
Part: Some people enjoy quiz shows. /səm/ 'some but not all'

Here are some more examples where some means 'some but not all'.

- Some trains have a restaurant car.
Some fish can change their sex.
Some of the trains from this station go direct to Edinburgh.
Some of the fish in the tank were a beautiful blue colour.

Here some fish has a general meaning, and some of the fish has a more specific meaning.

When some means 'some but not all', we can use it in a negative sentence.

- Some people don't enjoy quiz shows.

As well as a plural noun, we can also use some with a singular or an uncountable noun.

- I only watched some of the programme.
I like some jazz but not all of it.
We can use part of instead of some of but only with a singular noun.
I only watched part of the programme. (= a part of the programme). (BUT NOT Part of the trains go to Edinburgh)

We can also use any of.

- I was out, so I didn't see any of the programme.

E Any meaning 'it doesn't matter which'

When any has this meaning, we can use it in positive sentences.

- You can choose any colour you like.
You can call on me any time. I'm always here.
Any passer-by will be able to direct you to the town hall.
All passers-by know where the town hall is, so it doesn't matter which one you ask. They are all a possible source of information.

At any minute/moment means 'very soon'.

- The bus should be here at any minute.

Compare the meaning of either and any.

- Two: There are two colours. You can have either of them.
Three or more: There are several colours. You can have any of them.

We can use compounds of any in the same way.

- The door isn't locked. Anyone could just walk in.
What would you like for lunch? ~ Oh, anything. I don't mind.

F Other uses of some

Some with a singular noun can mean a person or thing whose identity is unknown.

- Some idiot dropped a bottle.
The flight was delayed for some reason (or other).
This suggests that it is not especially important who the idiot was or what the reason was.

Some day/time means an indefinite time in the future.

- I'll be famous some day/one day, you'll see.
You must come and see me some time.

NOTE

- a Some before a number means 'about'.
Some twenty people attended the meeting.
b Stressed some /səm/ can express a strong and positive feeling about something.
That was SOME parade, wasn't it?
This means that the parade was an especially impressive one.