

LESSON 152

860 “Any” and “some” with singular countable nouns

whichever

idiot

When we use the word “any” in front of a singular countable noun, it means “it’s not important which”. For example, the sentence “Take any biscuit you like” means that it isn’t important which biscuit you take; you can choose whichever one you like.

Give me an example of the word “any” used with the meaning of “it’s not important which”, please.

Any child can
learn to ride a bicycle

When we use “some” in front of a singular countable noun, we are referring to a particular person or thing, but we don’t know (or we don’t want to say) who it is or which it is. For example, in the sentence “Some man came to see you this morning while you were out”, we are referring to a particular man, but we can’t remember or don’t know who it was.

Give me an example of the word “some” used when we’re referring to a particular person, please.

Some idiot
has broken the window

flash

thunderstorm

image

When there’s a thunderstorm, we first see the flash of lightning. Then, after a few seconds, we hear the thunder, even though the thunder and lightning actually happen at the same time. The reason for the delay in hearing the thunder is that sound travels more slowly than light.

861 **Why is it that, in a thunderstorm, we first see the flash of lightning, and then, after a delay of a few seconds, hear the thunder?**

In a thunderstorm, we first ...
because sound travels more slowly than light

When does a camera need a flash to be able to produce a clear image?

A camera ... when there isn't enough natural light,
or when the lights inside a building aren't bright enough

signal

What am I doing? You're making a signal for someone to stop

Do you always get a good signal on your phone? Yes, I always get ... ~
No, I don't always get ...

slide

slip

The verb "slide" means "to move smoothly across a surface", in the way that skis move over snow or ice. The verb "slip" usually means "to slide by accident". For example, "He slipped on the banana skin and fell".

Is it easier to slide a heavy object across a floor if we first put a blanket or sheet under it? Yes, it's easier to ...

Have you ever actually seen anyone slip on a banana skin?

Yes, I've actually seen ...
~ No, I've never actually seen ...

onomatopoeia

crash

crush

splash

There are many words in English that give us an idea of their meaning by their sound. This connection between sound and meaning is known as onomatopoeia. Three examples of this are the verbs "crash", "crush" and "splash".

862 What do we mean by onomatopoeia?

By onomatopoeia,
we mean the connection between
the sound and the meaning of a word

Give me an example, please.

The car crashed into the
traffic lights and broke them. He crushed the
piece of paper in his hand and threw it in the bin.

If you heard a crashing sound outside your house in the middle of the night, would you get up and go out to see what had happened?

Yes, if I heard ..., I'd get up and ...
~ No, if I heard ..., I wouldn't get up and ...

What am I doing?

You're crushing a piece of paper in your hand

Do young children enjoy splashing each other in swimming pools?

Yes, young children ...

saucer

tablecloth

What do we use a saucer for?

We use a saucer to stand a cup on in order to prevent any of the liquid that might collect round the bottom of the cup getting onto the table or tablecloth and leaving a mark

file

known

Do the police store files on known criminals to help them fight crime?

Yes, the police ...

Do you manage to keep all the files on your computer carefully organized?

Yes, I manage to keep ...

~ No, I don't manage to keep ...

863 **fade**

sunlight

What makes the colour in cloth fade?

Sunlight and washing can make the colour in cloth fade

do up

undo

undone

zip

knot

Which are quicker to do up and undo: zips or buttons?

Zips are quicker ...

What happens to a knot if we don't tie it tightly enough?

If we don't tie ..., it will eventually come undone

Which verb do we use to describe the feeling that somebody wishes they could undo an action that they've done?

We use the verb "regret" to describe ...

regain

consciousness

When someone faints, how long does it usually take for them to regain consciousness?

When someone faints, it usually takes about ...

consume

Why do some people buy big cars despite the fact that they consume enormous amounts of petrol? Some people buy ...

applaud

applause

clap

What am I doing? You're clapping your hands together in applause for something

854 What does an audience do when applauding a singer or an actor on stage? An audience claps and sometimes cheers when ...

blade

shoulder blade

Give me some examples of different kinds of blade, please. The blade of a knife, sword or razor; a blade of grass; a shoulder blade; the blade of an ear

cork

corkscrew

remove

What's a cork made of, and what do we use it for? A cork is made of cork, and we use it to put into the neck of a bottle in order to stop the liquid in the bottle escaping

What do we use to remove a cork from a bottle? We use a corkscrew to remove ...

drive

staff

rude

If the staff in a shop were constantly rude to their customers, would it drive the customers away from the shop? Yes, if the staff ..., it'd drive ...

Are most trains in this country driven by electricity? Yes, most trains ...

environment

What kind of things can we do in our everyday lives to care for the environment? To care for the ..., we can recycle, use less energy in the home, avoid using cars too often etc.

865 Are you able to concentrate in noisy environments?

Yes, I'm able to ...
~ No, I'm not able to ...



Dictation 105

The moment the prisoner/ had climbed the high fence/ and escaped,/ he went to the place/ where he had been told/ a weapon of some kind/ had been buried for him./ The child got down on his knees/ to look at the poor dog's paw,/ which had a small nail caught in it./ It is a mystery/ why some people live a life of virtue/ whilst others live/ in exactly the opposite way./ From the carriage window,/ we had a clear view of the ancient town/ through the gap in the mountains./ Wandering around the village,/ we came across a funeral/ at the entrance of a small church./ He was completely out of breath/ and had to sit down.



Do Revision Exercise 69