

No/none/any Nothing/nobody, etc.

A

No and none

We use **no** + *noun*. **No** = not a or not any:

- We had to walk home because there was **no bus**. (= there wasn't a bus)
- I can't talk to you now. I have **no time**. (= I don't have any time)
- There were **no stores open**. (= There weren't any stores open.)

You can use **no** + *noun* at the beginning of a sentence:

- The plane was late. **No reason** was given for the delay.

We use **none** without a noun:

- "How much money do you have?" "**None**." (= no money)
- All the tickets have been sold. There are **none left**. (= no tickets left)

Or we use **none of**:

- This money is all yours. **None of it** is mine.

After **none of** + *plural* (**none of the students, none of them, etc.**), the verb can be *plural* or *singular*:

- **None of the stores were (or was) open.**

B

Nothing nobody / no one nowhere

You can use these negative words at the beginning of a sentence or alone (as answers to questions):

- **Nobody** came to visit me while I was in the hospital.
- "What happened?" "**Nothing**."
- "Where are you going?" "**Nowhere**. I'm staying here."

You can also use these words after a verb, especially after **be** and **have**:

- The house is empty. There's **no one** living there.
- We had **nothing** to eat.

Nothing/nobody, etc. = not + *anything/anybody, etc.*:

- I didn't say **anything**. (= I said **nothing**.)
- She didn't tell **anybody** about her plans. (= she told **nobody**)
- The station isn't **anywhere** near here. (= is **nowhere** near here)

When you use **nothing/nobody, etc.**, do not use a negative verb (*isn't, didn't, etc.*):

- I said **nothing**. (*not* I didn't say nothing)
- **Nobody** tells me anything. (*not* Nobody doesn't tell)

C

We also use **any/anything/anybody, etc.** (*without not*), to mean "it doesn't matter which/what/who" (see Unit 82D). Compare **no-** and **any-**:

- There was **no bus**, so we walked home.
You can catch **any bus**. They all go downtown. (= it doesn't matter which)
- "What do you want to eat?" "**Nothing**. I'm not hungry."
I'm so hungry, I could eat **anything**. (= it doesn't matter what)
- The exam was extremely difficult. **Nobody** passed. (= everybody failed)
- The exam was very easy. **Anybody** could have passed. (= it doesn't matter who)

D

After **nobody / no one** you can use **they/them/their** (see also Unit 82E):

- **Nobody** called, did **they**? (= did he or she)
- The party was a disaster. **No one** enjoyed **themselves**. (= himself or herself)
- **No one** in the class did **their** homework. (= his or her homework)

Exercises

83.1 Complete these sentences with *no*, *none*, or *any*.

1. It was a holiday, so there were *no* stores open.
2. I don't have *any* money. Can you lend me some?
3. I couldn't make an omelette because there were _____ eggs.
4. I couldn't make an omelette because there weren't _____ eggs.
5. "How many eggs do we have?" "_____. Should I go and buy some?"
6. We took a few pictures, but _____ of them were very good.
7. What a stupid thing to do! _____ intelligent person would do something like that.
8. I'll try and answer _____ questions you ask me.
9. I couldn't answer _____ of the questions they asked me.
10. We canceled the party because _____ of the people we invited were able to come.

83.2 Answer these questions using *none / nobody / no one / nothing / nowhere*.

1. What did you do?
2. Where are you going?
3. How much luggage do you have?
4. How many children do they have?
5. Who were you talking to?
6. What do you want?

Nothing.

Now answer the same questions using complete sentences with *any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere*.

7. (1) *I didn't do anything.*
8. (2) I _____.
9. (3) _____.
10. (4) _____.
11. (5) _____.
12. (6) _____.

83.3 Complete these sentences with *no* or *any* + *body/one/thing/where*.

1. I don't want *anything* to drink. I'm not thirsty.
2. The bus was completely empty. There was _____ on it.
3. "Where did you go for vacation?" "_____. I stayed at home."
4. I went to the mall, but I didn't buy _____.
5. "What did you buy?" "_____. I couldn't find _____ I wanted."
6. The town was still the same when I returned years later. _____ had changed.
7. Have you seen my watch? I've looked all over the house, but I can't find it _____.
8. There was complete silence in the room. _____ said _____.

83.4 Choose the right word.

1. She didn't tell nobody / anybody about her plans. (*anybody* is correct)
2. The accident looked serious, but fortunately no one / anyone was injured.
3. I looked out the window, but I couldn't see nobody / anybody.
4. My job is very easy. Nobody / Anybody could do it.
5. "What's in that box?" "Nothing / Anything. It's empty."
6. The situation is uncertain. Nothing / Anything could happen.
7. I don't know nothing / anything about economics.