



Unit 33 – Some & Any (*Some of the students have arrived.. There isn't any sugar left..*)

A) Some as a determiner – Some is used before nouns to indicate **indefinite quantities**. Some implies a **limited quantity** although the quantity is not specified:

- > Could you pick up **some** milk at the store? Ms. Smith had **some** advice for us before the exam.
- > There are ~~some~~ Grizzlies in Alaska. (x) (*This quantity is not limited*) -> There are **Grizzlies** in Alaska.

When using some as a determiner, there are two forms: i) 'strong' some & ii) 'weak' some:

i) Strong form of some – in the 'strong' form, some is stressed **to a greater extent** over other nouns:

- > **Some** fans were invited backstage to meet the band after the concert. (some, but not all fans)
- > There was **some** food available but there wasn't enough for everyone. (some, but not enough)

We also use 'strong' some with **singular countable nouns** when expressing a specific yet unknown thing:

- > I know the concert is sold out, but there must be **some way** to get tickets!

ii) Weak form of some – in the 'weak' form, some is used in **affirmative sentences** and in **questions** when the *expected answer is yes*: -> I've got **some** time to talk. Do you have **some** questions to ask?

Note how we use the weak form of some with **uncountable nouns** and **plural nouns**:

- > We could use **some advice** right now. Would you like **some help**? (uncountable noun)
- > There are **some updates** still needed. **Some glasses** are in the cupboard. (plural noun)

Note: -> We don't use 'weak' some with singular countable nouns: I need ~~some~~ glass of water. -> I need a glass..

B) Some with numbers – In formal speaking and writing, some can be used to indicate an unusually high amount:

- > **Some 200 protesters** arrived at the capital. **Some \$3 million** was spent on lavish trips abroad.

C) Some as a pronoun – Some is used as a pronoun (without a noun following) when the noun is naturally understood: -> My friends can speak english really well; **some** studied hard in school and **some** have lived abroad.

D) Any as a determiner – any is used before nouns to show **indefinite/unknown quantities** or an **unlimited entity**:

- > Did you take **any** insect repellent with you? -> No, I forgot to bring **any** (repellent) with me.
- > If I could travel back in time to **any** point in history, it would definitely be to the 1960's.

When using any as a determiner, there are two forms: i) 'strong' any & ii) 'weak' any:

i) Strong form of any – 'strong' any stresses 'it doesn't matter which/what' to describe something **not limited**:

- > You can take **any** bus. They all arrive downtown. (singular countable noun)
- > Do you have **any** information on how to solve this issue? (uncountable noun)

ii) Weak form of any – 'weak' any is used for **indefinite quantities in questions** and in **negative sentences**:

- > Did you bring **any** water with you for the hike? -> Chris didn't bring **any** snacks with him.

Note: -> We use **some** in affirmative sentences. -> I've got **some** bandages in case we need them.

E) Any as a pronoun – Any is used as a pronoun (without a noun following) when the noun is naturally understood:

- > A: Do you have cash with you? B: No, I'm sorry I don't have **any**. (negative statement)
- > A: I didn't get any bread at the market. B: Did you remember to get **any**? (question)

F) Any is used with 'of' before articles (a/an, the), demonstratives (this, these), pronouns (you) or possessives (his):

- > Are you going to use **any of this** paper? I don't think **any of us** are going to the concert.

G) Not any + no -> Any must be paired with a negative phrase in order to mean the same thing as **no**:

- > There wasn't **any** food leftover after dinner. or: -> There was **no** food leftover after dinner.
- > I don't have **any** more propane to cook with. or: -> There is **no** more propane to cook with.

H) Any and comparatives – any is used with **comparative adjectives** and **negative adverbs**:

- > You won't find flowers **any more lovely** than at this shop. I'll try to find them online for **any cheaper**.
- > There is **barely** any milk left. Also: never, rarely, hardly, seldom, scarcely, etc.



Unit 33 – Exercises:

33.1 – When we can't specify which person (or place/thing) because we don't know or we want to emphasize that it is actually not important, we can use **some** instead of a/an with a **singular noun**. For example:

Mom: Amy, where's your brother? Amy: He's gone to watch **some movie** at the theatre. I forget which one.

1. I don't know why dad's at work so late. I guess he's got **some project to do tonight**. (example)
2. A: Do you know why Kelly left class early? B: I think she had _____.
3. Justin has been really busy lately on weekends. He goes to _____.
4. I really like Kara's fashion style! I heard she shops at _____.
5. A: Hey! Come out with us tonight! B: Can't. I've got _____.

33.2 – Indefinite quantities. Write **some, any** or **no** in the following sentences. (33-A/C/D/F/G)

1. There aren't **any** chairs in the classroom. Could you go to the next class and get **some**?
2. We usually see _____ performers in the park on weekends. Have you ever seen _____ there yourself?
3. Mom never buys _____ fruit from that market. There were _____ rumors that it's unsanitary.
4. Danielle has _____ books and CD's to give away. I know you like to read. Would you like to get _____ ?
5. There isn't _____ milk left in the fridge. Would you mind getting _____ on your way home?
6. Mark is never on time to _____ of his meetings. _____ of his clients were upset the last time it happened.
7. There is _____ bread in the cupboard but we don't have _____ jam. Could you run out and get _____ ?
8. You're free today, right? Could you give me _____ help moving some furniture around in my place?
9. The doctor gave me _____ good medicine today. I'm still tired but I've got _____ fever and _____ more cough.
10. Mary went to Spain with _____ friends last month but she didn't take _____ pictures! I have _____ idea why.
11. Dan speaks almost _____ French and he's going to Paris. He's wife speaks _____ though. She lived in Paris before.
12. _____ companies accept Bitcoin as payment. In the future, I think _____ companies will accept cash.
13. There hasn't been _____ rain for months! If this continues, there will be _____ crops to harvest this autumn.

33.3 – Now, fill in the gaps using **a/an, some, any** or **no** in the following sentences. (33-All)

1. I'm afraid there's **no** milk left. There is **some** cream though. Is that okay in your coffee?
2. I need _____ help urgently. I can't understand _____ single word of what I'm reading.
3. Bob: There were _____ people at the bus stop today. Gary: There weren't _____ buses as drivers are on strike. _____ of the drivers were downtown at _____ rally demanding higher wages.
4. Mom had _____ terrible pain in her back today. I suggested she go to the doctor but she had _____ time as _____ of our relatives were planning to visit. I'm going to call the doctor right now to make _____ appointment for her.
5. I just bought _____ fresh strawberries. Would you like to try _____? B: Sure, I'd love to try _____!

33.4 – Turn the statements into a **negative (-)** or **question form (Q)** form as indicated. (33-All)

1. Sam didn't try any exotic food when he went on vacation to Thailand. (Q)
Did Sam try any exotic food when he went on vacation to Thailand?
2. Mr. Johnson asked me some questions today about the progress on our project. (-)
_____?
3. I'd rather not order any items from that online store. (Q)
_____?
4. Mom made some of her famous ham sandwiches for the picnic. (Q)
_____?
5. They have found some of the old family portraits in the attic. (-)
_____.
6. She didn't make any new friends while she was away to university. (Q)
_____?