An **indefinite pronoun** is a pronoun that does not refer to a specific person, place, thing or idea.

Some indefinite pronouns are compound words of **some-**, **any-**, **no-** and **every-**.

Now pay attention to the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Things</th>
<th>Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>some-</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>something</td>
<td>somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>somebody</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>any-</td>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>anything</td>
<td>anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>anybody</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no-</td>
<td>no one</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>nowhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nobody</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>every-</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>everything</td>
<td>everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>everybody</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How do we use these indefinite pronouns?**

**SOME-**

- Affirmative sentences and questions when a **Yes** or **No** answer is expected:

  e.g. **Someone** was sitting on the sofa.
  
  - Can you do **something** to help?
ANY-
- Negative sentences (used with not) and questions (used without not):
  e.g. The police couldn’t find her anywhere.
  Is there anything to eat?
- Affirmative sentences with the meaning of every- when the intention is to give emphasis:
  e.g. He was prepared to try anything to find his daughter.
  He wants to help the police to find missing people anywhere in the world.

NO-
- Affirmative sentences but with a negative meaning (used without not):
  e.g. Nobody was at home when I called.
  There was nothing we could do.

EVERY-
- Affirmative sentences and questions:
  e.g. The police looked for her everywhere.
  Is everything all right?

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**Ready for some practice?**

A. Underline the correct option.

1. There is someone / anyone in my house.
2. There is anything / nothing in the fridge.
3. Can I tell you something / nothing?
4. He gave me anything / everything I asked for.
5. No one / Anyone came to visit her.
6. Anybody / Somebody called me yesterday.
7. Did you go anywhere / nowhere last weekend?
8. I have looked somewhere / everywhere for my pen.
B. Look at the picture and complete the sentences with the indefinite pronouns you have learnt about.

1. - Do you think there is _____________ at home?
   - No, the three houses are empty. There is _____________ at home. _____________ is outside.

2. The house in the middle is all new. There are flowers and plants _____________.

3. In the other two houses _____________ is new. _____________ seems to be broken. We can't see flowers _____________.

4. - Do you think there are flowers _____________ inside the house?
   - No, I don't. I think they are _____________.

5. - Is there _____________ those two families can do so their houses look better?
   - Of course there is and they really have to do _____________.

C. Now complete the sentences using:

somebody    anybody    nobody    everybody
something   anything   nothing   everything
somewhere   anywhere   nowhere   everywhere

1. School finished at five so _____________ was having classes. _____________ was playing outside.
2. Yesterday we didn’t have ____________ for lunch because there wasn’t ____________ in the bar to serve us.

3. - Was there ____________ with Helen at the café?
   - Yes, there was _____________. I think it was Sue.

4. - Is there ______________ to drink?
   - No, ______________ at all.

5. ______________ likes Helen because she is very kind. When ______________ happens she is always ready to help.

6. Yesterday we went to Peter’s party. We ate lots of cakes and had a lot of fun. ______________ was happy and ______________ was perfect.

7. There was litter ______________ in the village. They had to take it ______________ and there was ______________ to put it.