



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Indefinite Pronouns by K S Sandhu

The Magical Mystery Shopper

Last weekend, Reeta decided to do something exciting in the city. She had heard about a lavish new department store called "Wonder Emporium" that sold everything you could imagine — from rare perfumes to golden chocolates and even flying umbrellas (or so the rumours said!). Reeta thought, "Somewhere in there must be the perfect gift for my best friend's birthday."

When she arrived, the store was bustling with people. Everyone seemed happy, laughing and carrying colourful bags. No one looked bored! Reeta felt a little overwhelmed at first because there was so much to see. Anything you wanted, the store probably had it.

She started on the ground floor, where the food hall was. The smell of fresh bread and exotic spices filled the air. "Something smells amazing!" Reeta said to herself. She walked past stalls with exquisite cakes, shiny fruits from faraway countries, and seafood so fresh it looked like it had just jumped out of the sea.

Suddenly, someone in a bright purple uniform smiled at her. "Can I help you find anything special?" the assistant asked.

"Yes, please!" Reeta replied. "I'm looking for something unique — nothing ordinary."

The assistant winked. "Follow me. We have a secret section upstairs where anyone can find a treasure."

They went up an escalator that played cheerful music. On the next floor, Reeta saw shelves full of strange and wonderful things: glowing pens, talking mirrors, and boxes that changed colour when you touched them. "Everything here is magical!" Reeta thought.

But then she noticed something small and shiny on a high shelf. It was a tiny silver box with stars on it. "Someone must have left this here by mistake," she said.

The assistant laughed. "No one leaves things here by mistake. If you see it, it's meant for you. Open it!"

Reeta opened the box. Inside was a small note: "Somewhere over the rainbow, your wish comes true. Anything is possible if you believe."

Reeta couldn't believe it. She wanted to indulge in the fun, so she whispered, "I wish for the best birthday gift ever for my friend."

Suddenly, the box glowed, and a beautiful handmade necklace appeared — exactly the one her friend had shown her in a photo months ago! Reeta was so happy she almost danced.

As she left the store, she looked back. The bustling crowds were still there, but now everyone seemed to have a little magic in their eyes. Nothing could ruin her day.

Reeta smiled and thought: "Someone once said that adventures are everywhere if you look for them. Today, I found something truly special — and anyone can, too!"

She walked home feeling light and happy, ready to tell her friend the funny story of the magical shop. And who knows? Maybe next time, someone else will discover the secret section at Wonder Emporium.

Questions:

Question 1: Where did Reeta go last weekend?

Question 2: Why did Reeta feel a little overwhelmed when she entered the store?

Question 3: What did the assistant in the purple uniform tell Reeta about the tiny silver box?

Question 4: What happened after Reeta made a wish using the silver box?

Question 5: According to the last part of the story, what can anyone do if they look for adventures?

Answers

Answer 1: She went to a new department store called Wonder Emporium.

Answer 2: She felt overwhelmed because there was so much to see / because the store was bustling with people and full of wonderful things.

Answer 3: The assistant told her that no one leaves things there by mistake and that if she saw it, it was meant for her.

Answer 4: The box glowed and a beautiful handmade necklace (the perfect gift for her friend) appeared inside it.

Answer 5: Anyone can find / discover something truly special / a little magic / adventures everywhere if they look for them.

11 Indefinite pronouns



1 Indefinite pronouns

We use indefinite pronouns to talk about a person, thing or place, when we don't know who or what they are, or it is not important.

PEOPLE	THINGS	PLACES
someone/somebody	something	somewhere
anyone/anybody	anything	anywhere
everyone/everybody	everything	everywhere
no one/nobody	nothing	nowhere

2 Use of indefinite pronouns

We use indefinite pronouns with *some* in positive sentences:

Someone will help you. (It doesn't matter who.)

My wallet is somewhere in this room. (I don't know where exactly.)

We can use them in requests, offers or suggestions (► Unit 10.1):

Shall we order something to drink?

We usually use indefinite pronouns with *any* in questions and negative sentences:

It's very dark – can you see anything? There isn't anyone at home.

We use indefinite pronouns with *every* to mean 'all people/things/places':

I've met everyone in the company now. Everything is ready.

Have you looked everywhere for your glasses?

We use indefinite pronouns with *no* with positive verbs, but the meaning is negative:

There was no one in the hotel who could help me.

⚠ We don't use two negatives: ✗ *No one wasn't there.* ✓ *No one was there.*

3 Indefinite pronouns + verb

Indefinite pronouns take a singular verb when they are the subject of a sentence:

Someone's waiting outside. Something smells good! What are you cooking?

Has anyone got a menu? 'What would you like to drink?' 'Anything is fine. I'm really thirsty.'

Nobody was at home. No one expects you to be perfect.

Everything here is expensive. Is everyone here?

4 Other uses

We often use adjectives after indefinite pronouns: *I'd like something cool, with ice.*

Is there anywhere quiet round here? We need someone reliable for this job.

We also use *to* + verb after indefinite pronouns: *Shall we order something to drink?*

There's nowhere to sit inside the restaurant – it's full. I haven't got anything to wear.

We often use *else* after indefinite pronouns. It means 'another person/thing/place' or 'a different person/thing/place':

This club is boring. Let's go somewhere else. (to another club)

Don't you have anything else on the menu? (something different)

Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the review with the words from the box.
 2.21 Listen and check.

anything everyone **everything** everywhere
 nothing nowhere somebody something

Review of the week – Harrods Food Hall

(0) Everything I had heard about this place was good. So on the last day of our trip to London, my wife and I visited this famous store. Well, we couldn't believe it! We've been (1) in the world, but (2) was as good as this! My wife wanted to buy (3) special for some friends, and there was so much to choose from. Harrods sells (4) – from seafood to chocolates. Of course, the only problem is that (5) is cheap. Still, we wanted to eat at Harrods – (6), it didn't matter what – so we had an ice cream, and it was fantastic! The staff are so good, too; we asked (7) in uniform for some information and she was very helpful. My only real criticism was that it was very crowded – it seemed that (8) in London was in Harrods that day!



- 2 Choose the correct indefinite pronouns in the lines from songs.

- 0 Nothing / Everything I do, I do it for you.
 1 Anything / Something you can do, I can do better.
 2 Somewhere / Anywhere over the rainbow, skies are blue.
 3 I can't run from myself; there's anywhere / nowhere to hide.
 4 Anything / Nothing means more than the truth.

- 3 Rewrite sentences 1–4. Use an indefinite pronoun to replace the underlined words. Then rewrite sentences 5–8. Use an indefinite pronoun + adjective/else or to + verb.

2.22 Listen and check.

- 0 I know I left my keys in a place in this room.
I know I left my keys somewhere in this room.
 1 Not one person came to the school open day.

 2 Jelena had no belongings at all when she came to this country.

 3 I'd like a volunteer from the audience – any person will be OK.

 4 The police searched all the rooms in the building but didn't find the murderer.

 00 I'm bored with toast. I want a different breakfast this morning.
I want something else this morning.
 5 I don't feel like a hot drink. Have you got a cold drink?

 6 All these cameras are too expensive. Don't you have a cheaper one?

 7 I'd rather not see Mr Knightley. Can I see a different person?

 8 Can I have a book or magazine that I can read?

Answers

UNIT 11

- 1** 1 everywhere 2 nowhere 3 something
4 everything 5 nothing 6 anything
7 somebody 8 everyone
- 2** 1 Anything 2 Somewhere 3 nowhere
4 Nothing
- 3** 1 No one/Nobody 2 nothing 3 anyone/
anybody 4 everywhere 5 something/anything
cold 6 something/anything cheaper 7 someone/
somebody else 8 something to read