INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

We use indefinite pronouns when the person or the object that we refer to isn’t so clear. We have indefinite pronouns to refer to people, objects, and places. Indefinite pronouns always take the singular form, “there is” or only “is”.

Indefinite pronouns for people:
Anybody → anyone
Somebody → someone
Nobody → no one
Everybody → everyone

Here are some rules when using indefinite pronouns for people.
1. When asking a question we normally use anybody or anyone.

   Examples:
   Question: Is anybody home?
   Question: Is anyone at the door?
   Question: Is anybody going to go to the store?

2. In answering these questions in affirmative form we use “somebody” or “someone”.

   Examples:
   Question: Is anybody home?
   Affirmative answer: Yes, someone is home.
   Question: Is anybody going to help me?
   Negative answer: Don’t worry, someone will help you.
   Question: anyone going to the party?
   Affirmative answer: Sure, someone is going to the party.

3 - In answering these questions in the negative form we use the negative form of the verb “isn’t” and “anybody” or “anyone”.

   Examples:
   Question: Is anybody home?
   Negative answer: No, there isn’t anybody home.
   Question: Is anybody going to help me?
   Negative answer: No, there isn’t anyone who is going to help you.
   Question: Is anyone going to the party?
   Negative answer: No, there isn’t anybody that’s going to the party.
4 - In answering the above questions in rule number three, it is much better to use “nobody” or “no one”, but we have to use the verb in the affirmative form.

**Examples:**

**Question:** Is anybody home?
**Negative answer:** No, there is nobody home.

**Question:** Is anybody going to help me?
**Negative answer:** No, nobody is going to help you.

**Question:** Is anyone going to the party?
**Negative answer:** No, no one is going to the party

Note: We can contract the following:

There is = There’s
Nobody is = Nobody’s
No one is = No one’s

The rules that are stated above are also applied for things and places.
Indefinite pronouns for things:

Anything
Something
Nothing
Everything

**Examples:**

**Question:** Is there anything on the table?
**Affirmative answer:** Yes, there is something on the table.
**Negative answer:** No, there isn’t anything on the table.
**Negative answer:** No, there’s nothing on the table.

**Question:** Is there anything in the refrigerator?
**Affirmative answer:** Yes, there is something in the refrigerator.
**Negative answer:** No, there isn’t anything in the refrigerator.
**Negative answer:** No, there’s nothing in the refrigerator.

Indefinite pronouns for places:

Anywhere
Somewhere
Nowhere
Everywhere
Examples:

**Question:** Did she go anywhere for vacation last year?

**Affirmative answer:** Yes, she went somewhere for vacation last year.

**Negative answer:** No, she didn’t go anywhere for vacation last year.

**Negative answer:** No, she went nowhere for vacation last year.

When we use: anybody, anything, or anywhere at the beginning of sentences the meaning changes.

*Examples:*

Anybody can do it. (That is very simple)

Anywhere you go in the world you can find coca-cola.

Anything is good to eat when you are dying of hunger.
Get Smart! Quiz A

Complete the following questions with the correct indefinite pronoun. Keep in mind that sometimes, more than one answer is possible.

Examples:
There is _________ at the door. There is somebody/someone at the door.

1. There is _________ in the bag.

2. I am very disappointed because _________ came to my birthday party.

3. Is there _________ home?

4. My mother is very upset. She doesn’t want to talk to _________

5. Is there _________ that I can do to help you?

6. There is _________ in class today. I didn’t know our class was cancelled.

7. I can’t believe it. _________ has been able to solve the crossword puzzle.

8. Excuse me sir. _________ left his wallet on the seat.

9. Is there _________ you want to tell me before I leave?

10. There isn’t _________ else to talk about. It is over!

11. Please don’t say _________. You can get us in trouble.

12. You can’t always get _________ you want in life.

13. _________ has changed up to now. Everything is the same.

14. She has to do _________ her lateness at work. She is going to lose her job.

15. Would you like _________ to drink?

16. Excuse me officer! _________ stole my wallet!

17. You can leave your bag _________ you like. It is very safe in here. Don’t worry.

18. Are you going to bring _________ for the party?

19. There are so many ants in this place. They seem to be _________

20. Mommmm _________ wants to talk to you.