

Quantifiers – Some & Any

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Grammar Notes

QUANTIFIERS

A. Introduction

A **quantifier** is a word that comes before a **noun** (a person, place, or thing). It shows the **quantity** (amount) of that noun.

In the chart below, note that the percentages are only approximate numbers to help you understand the general amounts of each quantifier. Quantifiers have no specific amounts attached to them.

Amount	Quantifier
100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all • every
95%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almost all • almost every
90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most
80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many • much • a lot of • lots of
50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some
30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several
20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a few • few • a little • little
10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a couple
5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almost no
0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no
depends on context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each • any

Note:

This lesson will focus on the common quantifiers *some* and *any*.

Grammar Notes cont.

B. Some and Any

Quantifier	Some	Any
Meaning	Think of <i>some</i> as an indefinite number that is about 50% (about half of an amount of a noun). It's not too much and not too little.	The amount associated with <i>any</i> depends on the context. In negative sentences, <i>any</i> usually means none of the noun. In questions, <i>any</i> means some, many, or all of the noun.
When to Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in affirmative (positive) sentences before plural count nouns before non-count nouns <p>Note: There might be an adjective or adverb + adjective phrase between <i>some</i> and the noun, but there is never another article such as <i>a</i> or <i>the</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in negative sentences in questions before plural count nouns before non-count nouns
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She borrowed some books from the library. Let's watch some old movies this weekend. We made some rice for dinner. The children want some attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He doesn't have any free time. They don't want any pizza. Do you have any pets? Does she require any assistance?
Exceptions	<p><i>Some</i> can be used in certain types of questions. It is commonly used in questions that are offers or requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you want some more coffee? (<i>offer</i>) Can I get some more fries? (<i>request</i>) 	<p><i>Any</i> can be used in affirmative sentences to emphasize there is no specific noun in the speaker's mind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I need a pen. Any pen will do. (<i>I don't care which pen it is.</i>)
	<p><i>Some</i> has many functions in English. Don't get confused by the use of <i>some</i> as a pronoun, as in the example below. If <i>some</i> is not followed by a noun, it is acting as a pronoun and not a quantifier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You don't need to stop for milk on your way home. I already bought some. 	<p><i>Any</i> also has many functions in English. Don't get confused by the use of <i>any</i> as a pronoun, as in the example below. If <i>any</i> is not followed by a noun, it is acting as a pronoun and not a quantifier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you stop for milk on your way home? I didn't have time, so I didn't buy any.

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences using the article *a* or the quantifier *some*.
Use *a* for singular count nouns and *some* for non-count or plural count nouns.

1. Matt bought a pair of jeans.
2. Min Ju bought _____ shoes.
3. Anthony bought _____ milk.
4. Maria bought _____ rice.
5. Steve bought _____ blanket.
6. Jesse bought _____ earrings.
7. Rachel bought _____ fruit.
8. Akiko bought _____ candy.
9. Liam bought _____ guitar.
10. Hector bought _____ video game.

Exercise 2

Complete the questions using the article *a* or the quantifier *any*.
Use *a* for singular count nouns and *any* for non-count or plural count nouns.

1. Do you want any pizza?
2. Did you watch _____ good shows last night?
3. Did they get _____ new puppy?
4. Do you want _____ cookie?
5. Do we have _____ money?
6. Does she need _____ pen?
7. Did they buy _____ clothes?
8. Did you see _____ good movies last weekend?
9. Did they get _____ more volunteers?
10. Does he have _____ new computer?

Exercise 3

A. Write Questions

Rewrite the sentences as questions using "any."

1. Does she have any pasta in her cupboard?

She has some pasta in her cupboard.

2. _____

They want some new shoes.

3. _____

He bought lots of vegetables at the grocery store.

4. _____

I found some old photographs in the attic.

5. _____

They have five children.

B. Write Sentences

Rewrite the questions as sentences using "some."

1. Does he have any books in his backpack?

He has some books in his backpack.

2. Do you need any pamphlets?

3. Does she have any pets?

4. Do they need any pet food?

5. Did you buy any chocolate?

Exercise 4

Two friends are talking on the phone.

Complete the dialogue using *some* or *any*. Circle the correct quantifier.

When you're finished, read the dialogue out loud with a partner.

Mark: Hi, Ted! How's life in Japan? Have you made _____ new friends yet?
1. some (any)

Ted: Hey, Mark! Life is good. Yeah, I've made _____ friends, but I miss life in California, too.
2. some / any

Mark: You'll settle in soon enough. How's the job search going? _____ new leads?
3. Some / Any

Ted: I've been on _____ interviews, but nobody has hired me yet.
4. some / any

I'm going on an interview tomorrow for a great company.

Mark: That's great. I'll send _____ good luck your way.
5. some / any

Ted: And how's life with you? Have you met _____ girls lately?
6. some / any

Mark: I met _____ girls at a party last weekend.
7. some / any

I talked to one of them for hours, and we're going out tonight.

Ted: Wow, that's great! Good luck!

Mark: Thanks. _____ more news?
8. Some / Any

Ted: I'm sure I'll have _____ news for you soon. I hope I get the job!
9. some / any

Mark: And I hope I get the girl!

Exercise 5

OFFERS AND REQUESTS

Write the questions using the words provided.

If the question is an offer or request, use *some*. If not, use *any*.

1. Can / I / borrow / money

Can I borrow some money?

2. Could / she / find / books / yesterday
-

3. Could / you / pour / me / tea
-

4. Did / Lisa / buy / clothes
-

5. Can / she / have / more / coffee
-

6. Can / I / offer / you / dessert
-

7. Did / you / get / snacks
-

8. Would / you / like / more / cookies
-

9. Could / I / get / help
-

10. Could / Jon / hear / music / through / the wall
-

Exercise 6

CLASS SURVEY

Ask your classmates these questions, and write their answers on the lines below. Speak to a new classmate for each question. Try to use *some* and *any* when you answer these questions.

1. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

2. Do you have any pets?

3. Do you have any trouble learning English?

4. Can you think of any study habits that are helpful?

5. Do you have any interesting hobbies?

6. Do you have any plans this weekend?

7. Do you have any free time on weeknights?

8. Can you think of any good movies that are playing right now?

9. Can you think of any local restaurants that you would recommend?

10. Do you have any advice on how to relax?

Exercise 8

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

- I don't have _____ free time.
 - some
 - any
 - a
- There is already _____ furniture in the apartment.
 - some
 - any
 - a
- Would you like _____ ice cream?
 - some
 - any
 - a
- I got _____ bag of oranges at the corner store.
 - some
 - any
 - a
- Are there _____ flowers in the garden?
 - some
 - any
 - a
- Do you need _____ laundry detergent?
 - some
 - any
 - a
- She used _____ eggs for the cake.
 - some
 - any
 - a
- I am going to the store because we need _____ rice.
 - some
 - any
 - a
- I need _____ new jacket.
 - some
 - any
 - a
- Do you want _____ bowl of soup for dinner?
 - some
 - any
 - a

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

This lesson focuses on the quantifiers *some* and *any*. Through a variety of writing and speaking exercises, students will learn when to use these two common quantifiers.

LEVEL: Low Int – Int

TIME: 1–2 hours

TAGS: quantifiers, determiners, articles, nouns, grammar

Exercise 1

- | | | |
|---------|---------|-------|
| 1. a | 5. a | 9. a |
| 2. some | 6. some | 10. a |
| 3. some | 7. some | |
| 4. some | 8. some | |

Exercise 2

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. any | 5. any | 9. any |
| 2. any | 6. a | 10. a |
| 3. a | 7. any | |
| 4. a | 8. any | |

Exercise 3

A. WRITE QUESTIONS

Answers may vary slightly.

- Does she have any pasta in her cupboard?
- Do they want any new shoes?
- Did he buy any vegetables at the grocery store?
- Did you find any old photographs in the attic?
- Do they have any children?

B. WRITE SENTENCES

Answers may vary slightly.

- He has some books in his backpack.
- I need some pamphlets.
- She has some pets.
- They need some pet food.
- I bought some chocolate.

Exercise 4

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. any | 4. some | 7. some |
| 2. some | 5. some | 8. Any |
| 3. Any | 6. any | 9. some |

Exercise 5

Note: The point of this exercise is to make students aware of offers and requests (when *some* is more natural). Encourage your students to come up with the answers below even when both terms are possible. (The following answers are the most natural.)

- Can I borrow **some** money?
- Could she find **any** books yesterday?
- Could you pour me **some** tea?
- Did Lisa buy **any** clothes?
- Can she have **some** more coffee?
- Can I offer you **some** dessert?
- Did you get **any** snacks?
- Would you like **some** more cookies?
- Could I get **some** help?
- Could Jon hear **any** music through the wall?

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 6

Answers will vary.

Exercise 7

Answers will vary.

Monitor your students for correct quantifier usage.

Exercise 8

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. a | 5. b | 7. a | 9. c |
| 2. a | 4. c | 6. b | 8. a | 10. c |