

Some, any: further information

'Any' or 'either'?

Any is used to talk about more than two people or things and **either** about two:

I have lots of colleagues in the US but I haven't met **any** of them.
I've started writing two reports but haven't finished **either** of them.

Word order

'Not **any**' isn't usually used at the beginning of a sentence or clause:

Not **any** of my friends work at weekends. ❌
Not **any** food was provided. ❌

Instead, we use **no** or **none**:

None of my friends work at weekends.
No food was provided.

'Any' + comparative

We can use '**any** more' or '**any** longer' at the ends of sentences to indicate a situation that has changed:

I used to smoke but I don't **any** more.
She doesn't work here **any** longer.

Note that '**any** more' is sometimes written as '**anymore**'. Whilst some authorities accept this as an alternative when it means '**any** longer' or '**nowadays**', it is considered less acceptable in the following sentence where '**any** more problems' means '**any** further/additional problems':

She doesn't smoke **any** more/anymore because she doesn't want **any** more problems.

We can use **any** + other comparatives to mean 'even a little':

I don't know why they bought that house - I thought they wanted more space for the children but it isn't **any bigger than their last one. [not even a little]**

Is this computer **any faster than yours? [even a little faster?]**

If he works **any more slowly than this, he'll never finish on time. [even if he works just a little more slowly]**

Similarly, **any** can mean 'at all':

They sent a replacement but it isn't **any different from the first one. It won't be **any** use. [no difference or use at all]**

We can also use **any** after a comparative to emphasise the difference between one thing and all others:

It's better than **any of his other films.**

It's more expensive than **any other similar car on the market.**

'Any' in affirmative sentences

Any can be used in affirmative clauses beginning with 'before':

Let's deal with it now before it causes **any problems.**

Before buying **any new office furniture, we should decide exactly what we need.**

And in affirmative sentences with 'hardly':

Hardly **any of my colleagues work from home.**

The temperature rose this week & there is hardly **any snow left.**

Intensifiers

We can use intensifiers with **any** to give extra information. Here are some examples:

Any	
<p>'Almost', 'virtually'</p> <p>The meaning is 'it doesn't matter who/which'.</p>	<p>We can meet <u>almost any</u> day next month.</p> <p>You can ask <u>virtually any</u> member of the team for advice - most of them are experts.</p>
<p>'Hardly'</p> <p>To talk about very small quantities and amounts. The meaning is similar to 'almost no/none' or very few/little'.</p>	<p>Hardly <u>any</u> of my friends speak fluent French.</p> <p>We won't be able to expand next year; there's <u>hardly any</u> money left.</p>

Examples



Great - now I won't have to work any longer!



There are hardly any problems that he can't fix although some of them take time.



If I have to wait any longer, I'll miss my connection.



The weather is bad but the airlines are working hard to prevent any delays. So there isn't any point complaining.



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