

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</u> any day next month.</p> <p>You can ask <u>virtually</u> any 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><u>Hardly</u> any of my friends speak fluent French.</p> <p>We won't be able to expand next year; there's <u>hardly</u> any money left.</p>

Examples



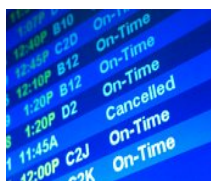
Great - now I won't have to work any longer!



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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