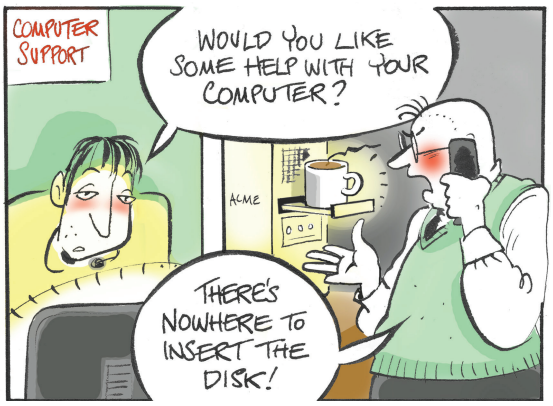
Life

Upper Intermediate Unit 4a(1)

Determiners (1): *some, any, no, none, some-, any-, no-*

The problems people have with their computers



When you work for Computer Support, customers telephone with some crazy problems. Here are some of the best!

'This side of the CD works, but there isn't anything on the other side …'

'Does any of this software need a computer?'

'I'd like some stamps so I can send emails.'

'The screen says "press any key" but I can't see the ANY KEY button.'

'There's nowhere to insert the disc. Is it anywhere near the cup holder?'

'If I log in as me, how does the computer know it isn't someone else?'

Presentation

Use *some, any* and *no* with plural and uncountable nouns.

some and *any*

Some refers to a part of a group or thing, but not all of it. You can use *some*:

- in affirmative sentences: *I'd like **some** stamps.* (= an unspecified number); *I'd like **some** cake.* (= part of, but not all of it)
- to make requests and offers: *Can I have **some** help? Would you like **some** help?* (an unspecified amount)
- with a negative verb to exclude part of a group or thing: ***Some** computers aren't as reliable as others.* (an unspecified number of computers, but not all)

Any can refer to a part, all or none of a group or thing. You can use *any*:

- in affirmative sentences when the quantity is not important: *Tell me if there are **any** problems with your computer.* (all problems, no matter what)
- in questions, with plural or uncountable nouns: *Do you have **any** stamps? Have we got **any** butter?*
- in affirmative sentences, often with a singular noun, when *any* means 'it doesn't matter which': *Press **any** key.*
- with negative sentences and questions: *There aren't **any** stamps.* (none)

You can use *some* and *any* without a noun when the meaning is clear: *Have you got **any** stamps? Yes, there are **some** in my purse. / Sorry, I haven't got **any**.*

You can also use *some* and *any* with *of*. The verb with *some/any of* + plural noun is plural: ***Some of** the computers **are** very old.* The verb with *some/any of* + uncountable noun is singular: ***Does any of** the software need updating?*

no and *none*

Use *no* and *none* with an affirmative verb in both questions and statements. The meaning is similar to *not any* but *no/none* is slightly more emphatic:

*Are there **no** stamps? No, there are **none.***

Use *no* with a noun: *There are **no** stamps left.*

Use *none* to replace a noun, or with *of* (to mean 'not one of').

*Are there any stamps? No, there are **none** left.*

***None of** the computers work.*

TIP *none of* + plural noun can take a plural verb or singular verb: *None of the computers work.* ✓ *None of the computers works.* ✓

some-, any-, no-

You can add *-one, -body, -where, -thing* to *some-, any-, no-* to talk in general about people, places and things: *How does the computer know it isn't **someone** else? There isn't **anything** on the other side. There's **nowhere** to put a disc.*

When one of these words is the subject of a sentence, the verb is in the singular form: ***Someone is** on the phone.*

You can also use these words before an adjective: *This computer is too slow. I'd like **something faster.***

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Exercises

1 **Write *some, any, no* or *none* in this conversation. Then listen and check.**

A: Computer Support. Briony speaking.

B: Hello, I need [1] ..... help with my new computer. There are [2] ..... pictures on the screen. It's completely blank.

A: OK. I'm going to ask you [3] ..... questions first. What sort of computer is it?

B: A white one.

A: What's the serial number on your computer?

B: I can't see [4] ..... numbers.

A: There should be [5] ..... small letters and numbers on the left side of the screen. Are there [6] ..... on it?

B: Oh yes! They're very small. VFN-FF2303.

A: And when you bought the computer, did you put [7] ..... new software on it?

B: No, [8] ..... . Perhaps that's why the screen is black.

A: Black? Have you switched it on?

B: Switched it on?

2 **All the sentences below contain a mistake. Correct the sentences by changing or crossing out one word in each.**

1 We don't have ~~some~~ any copies of Mafia Maze II.

2 I've got any blank discs. I'll give you them.

3 There aren't no lessons today.

4 No, there are none lessons today.

5 Some of people prefer this kind of mouse.

6 Do no of these machines work properly?

3 **Complete the conversations with words beginning with *some-, any-* or *no-*. More than one word is possible in some sentences.**

1 A: Who's the person at the door?
B: It's ..... about the plumbing. He's here to fix it.

2 A: Did you go away at the weekend?
B: No, we didn't go ..... . I was so bored!

3 A: Did you call that number?
B: Yes, but ..... answered.

4 A: Is there ..... interesting on TV?
B: Yes, there's a programme about polar bears.

5 A: What's the matter with your computer?
B: I don't know. ..... isn't working properly.

6 A: This car is very popular with families.
B: I don't like it. Do you have ..... more sporty?

4 **Describe the room you are in by completing these sentences.**

1 It has got some ....., but there aren't any ..... .

2 Also, there are no ..... .

3 None of the ..... are new, but some of the ..... are.

4 My ..... are somewhere in the room, but I can't see them at the moment.

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