

Unit 85

No/none/any

No/any + -one/-body/-thing/-where

a No none no-one nobody nothing nowhere

We use these negative words especially at the beginning of a sentence or alone:

- **No-one** (or **Nobody**) came to visit me when I was in hospital.
- **No** system of government is perfect.
- 'Where are you going?' '**Nowhere**. I'm staying here.'
- **None** of these books are mine.
- 'What did you do?' '**Nothing**.'

You can also use these words in the middle or at the end of a sentence. But don't use 'not' with these words. They are already negative:

In the middle or at the end of a sentence, we more often use: **not ... any/anyone/anybody/anything/anywhere**:

- I **didn't** see **anything**. (= I saw nothing.)
- We **haven't** got **any** money. (= We've got no money.)
- The station **isn't anywhere** near here. (= ... is nowhere near here)
- She **didn't** tell **anyone** about her plans. (= She told no-one)

Where there is another negative word, you don't need 'not':

- **Nobody** tells me **anything**. (= people don't tell me anything)

b No and none

We use **no** with a noun. **No** = **not a** or **not any**:

- We had to walk because there was **no bus**. (= there wasn't a bus)
- I can't talk to you now. I have **no time**. (= I haven't any time)
- There were **no shops** open. (= there weren't any shops)

We use **none** alone (without a noun):

- 'How much money have you got?' '**None**.'

Or we use **none of**:

none of these shops none of my money none of it/us/you/them

After **none of** + a *plural* word ('none of **the girls** / none of **them**' etc.), you can use a singular or a plural verb. A plural verb is more usual:

- None of the **people** I met **were** English.

c After no-one/nobody we often say they/them/their:

- **Nobody** phoned, did **they**? (= did he or she)
- **No-one** in the class did **their** homework. (= his or her homework)

d You can use any/no with comparatives (any better / no bigger etc.):

- Do you feel **any better** today? (= Do you feel better at all? - said to someone who felt ill yesterday)
- We've waited long enough. I'm **not** waiting **any longer**. (= not even a minute longer)
- I expected your house to be very big but it's **no bigger** than mine. (= not even a little bigger)

For **any** see also **Unit 84**.

- 'How much money have you got?' '**None**.'