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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Vocabulary

### Someone, nothing, anywhere...



*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Finn**

Hello! Welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Finn

**Catherine**

And I'm Catherine. And today we're talking about words like **someone**, **nothing** and **anywhere**.

**Finn**

So, let's start by listening to Tracey. She's talking to a friend about a problem she has.

**Catherine**

And here's a question for you: What is Tracey worried about? Here she is.

**INSERT**

**Tracey**

My boyfriend seems to be very busy these days. I'm worried there's **someone** else in his life. I mean, most evenings he could be **anywhere** for all I know. He always says that he couldn't love **anyone** except me. And **everyone** knows that you should trust people you love. But do you think I should say **something** to him? There's **no one** else I can ask.

**Finn**

So that's Tracey. And we asked you: What is Tracey worried about?

**Catherine**

And the answer is: She's worried that there's **someone** else in her boyfriend's life.

**Finn**

Oh yes. Now **someone** is one of the words we're looking at today. **Someone** means **one person** but it doesn't say who.

**Catherine**

That's right, Tracey doesn't know who it might be. And **someone** often goes with the word **else**. **Someone else** means one other person.

**Finn**

And Tracey used other words with **one** in them. Listen for them in this clip.

**INSERT**

**Tracey**

He always says that he couldn't love **anyone** except me. And **everyone** knows that you should trust people you love. There's **no one** else I can ask.

**Catherine**

Right, so there's **anyone**. That also means one person, but **anyone** is used mostly in questions and negative sentences.

**Finn**

Then there's **everyone**: **Everyone** means all people.

**Catherine**

And **no one**. There's no one else I can ask. Notice the word **else** again. **No one else** means **no other person**. You can also say **anyone else**. Or **everyone else**. That means **all other people**.

**Finn**

Now in written English, **someone**, **anyone** and **everyone** are all one word, but **no one** is two words: **no** and **one**.

**Catherine**

That's right. And **somebody**, **anybody**, **everybody** and **nobody** are used in exactly the same way as **someone**, **anyone** and the others. But **nobody** is one word. So that's different from **no one**.

**Finn**

Let's have another clip.

**INSERT**

**Tracey**

But do you think I should say **something** to him?

**Catherine**

So this time we heard **something**. And of course we can also have **anything**, **everything** and **nothing**.

**Finn**

And something means: **one thing**.

**Catherine**

**Anything** and **everything** mean **all things**.

**Finn**

And **nothing** means - **no thing**.

**Catherine**

OK. Now let's look at the verbs with use with all these words. Tracey said: **there's someone else** and **everyone knows**.

**Finn**

She did. The interesting thing here is that they're singular verbs: **is** and **knows**. We always always use a singular verb with these words. And what about the verb with **no one** and **nothing**, Catherine?

**Catherine**

Like in the sentence: **There's no one else I can ask...**

**Finn**

That's right, it's a singular verb again. We say **there is** not **there are**. And notice that it's positive. It's a common mistake to use a negative verb with the **no** words. So we don't say 'no one isn't going'.

**Catherine**

We say **no one is going**. And there's an important point to make about **everyone** and **everybody**. Even though the verb is singular, we use **they**, **their** and **them**.

**Finn**

So **Everyone says they will come to the party**.

**Catherine**

Exactly. And it's the same with **no one** and **nobody**. **Nobody wants to know their exam results!** And now for the last clip.

**INSERT**

**Tracey**

I mean, most evenings he could be **anywhere** for all I know.

**Catherine**

Now, usually **anywhere**, **anyone** or **anything**, mean one place, person or thing. For example: **Is there anywhere to park the car?**

**Finn**

But here **anywhere** means **in any place - it doesn't matter where exactly**. And you can use **anyone** or **anything** in the same way.

**Catherine**

So **ask anyone** means **it doesn't matter who you ask**.

**Finn**

And **I'll eat anything** means **it doesn't matter what I eat**.

**IDENT**

6 Minute Vocabulary from BBC Learning English.

**Finn**

Right, it's quiz time! Here's number one: Which is correct? a) Anyone knows that London is the capital of the UK. Or b) Everyone knows that London is the capital of the UK.

**Catherine**

It's b).

**Finn**

That's the one! Number two: a) Are you inviting anyone other? b) Are you inviting anyone else?

**Catherine**

It's b) again.

**Finn**

And now number three: a) Everyone put their coats on and left. b) Everyone put on his coat and left.

**Catherine**

And it's a).

**Finn**

Very good! Well done if you got all of those right.

**Catherine**

And before we go, here's a vocabulary tip. We often use **someone, anyone, everyone** and **no one** before adjectives and infinitives. So **Is there anything nice to eat?** Or **there's nothing to eat**. Try making other sentences like that with these words and write them in your notebook.

**Finn**

There's more about this at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). So, join us again soon for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

**Both**

Bye!

**Vocabulary points to take away:**

**Someone, anyone, no one, everyone** mean the same as **somebody, anybody, nobody, everybody**. They all mean **one person, no person** or **all people**:  
**Is there someone at the door? No, there's no one.**

**Something, anything, nothing** and **everything** mean **one thing, no thing** and **all things**:  
**Is there anything I can do to help?**

**Somewhere, anywhere, nowhere** and **everywhere** mean **one place, no place** and **all places**:  
**I've looked everywhere and I can't find it.**

The word **else** is often used after these words to mean **other**:  
**Do you want to invite anyone else?**  
**There's nowhere else to go.**

**Anyone, anything** and **anywhere** sometimes have a different meaning:  
**Ask anyone.** (any person, it doesn't matter who)  
**She'll eat anything.** (any thing, it doesn't matter what)

Notice that only **no one** is two words. And **no one, nobody** and **nothing** always have a positive verb:  
**No one answered the phone.**  
**Nothing has happened since you left.**

All these words take a singular verb:  
**Everyone is watching TV.**

We use **they, their** and **them** with **everyone**:  
**Is everyone happy with their seats?**

All these words are often used before adjectives and infinitives:  
**Is there anything interesting on TV?**  
**It's raining and there's nothing to do.**