



Any vs. Some Worksheet

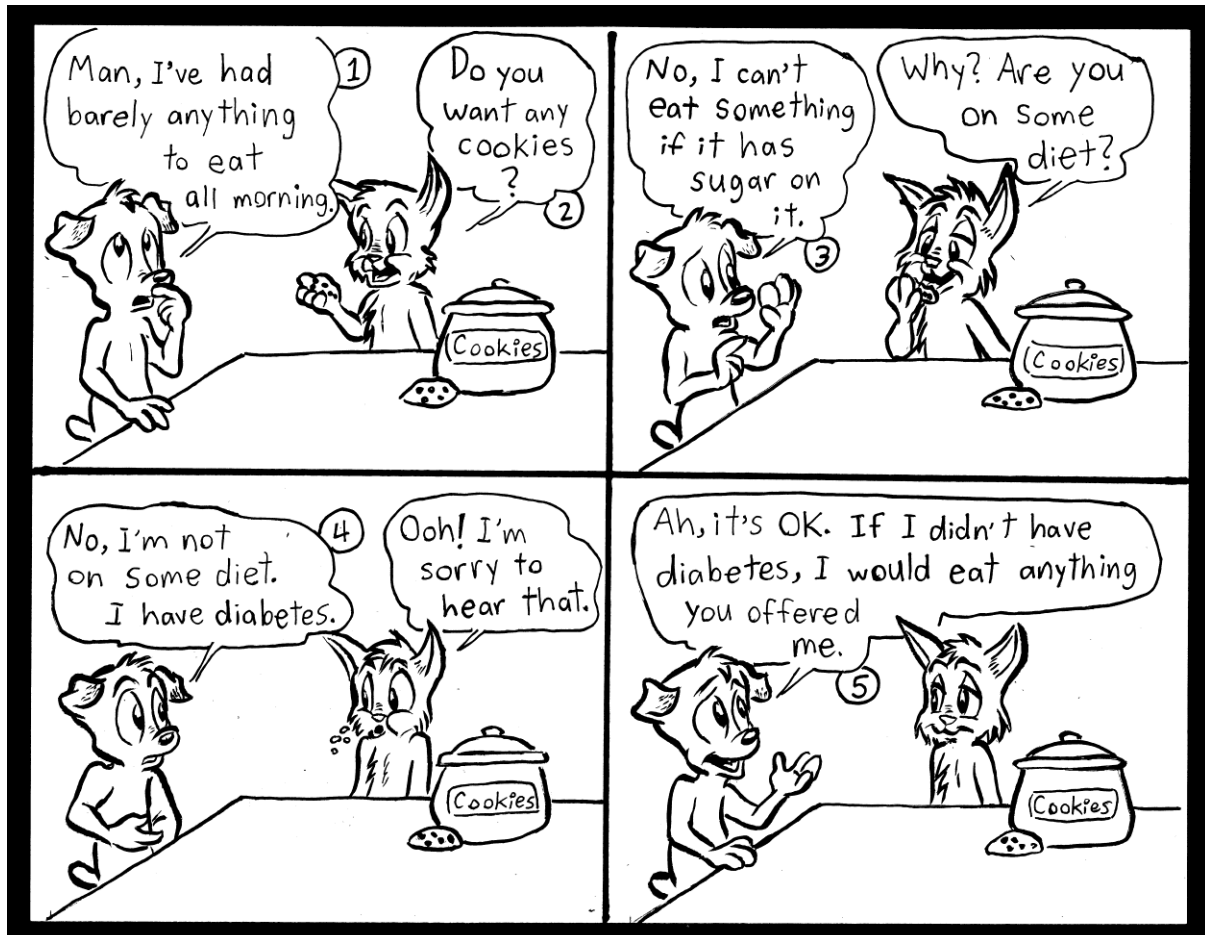
*Activity 1: In the following paragraph, every word in **bold** is incorrect. Correct each sentence by either removing or replacing the incorrect words. You may want to look at the chart on page 3 of this handout for ideas. An answer key appears on page 5 of this handout.*

Scientists who study pollution have found **any** obvious human causes for degradation of the environment. The way people generate electricity and power their vehicles is especially significant; some scientists even argue that we must not use **something** that burns oil.

Anytime other fossil fuels are used instead of oil. This can be worse or better for the environment. Coal is **anything** that is sometimes used rather than oil. It's not used just **somewhere**. It tends to be used in poorer, less developed parts of the world. Coal pollutes the air a lot more than oil, which is why some environmental scientists say that coal shouldn't be used by **somebody** for **some** reason. Propane is **any** better for the environment than coal. Driving cars fueled by propane is a way to pollute the environment less. Unfortunately, in many countries, propane-fueled cars aren't being sold, and cannot be bought by **someone**.

One thing all scientists can agree on is that global pollution is increasing, and we can't ignore it **some more**. If **anyone** doesn't do something soon, we could start seeing much more serious environmental problems. We can look to our political leaders for help. However, there are things ordinary people can do as well. When **anybody** drives instead of walking, they burn less oil and help the environment. People can also look up **anymore** ways to reduce their personal pollution. People should always remember that the waste from the energy they use has to go **anywhere**, even if it doesn't go into your own backyard. Waste less energy, and there will be less pollution.

Activity 2: In the comic strip below, the speakers are using exceptions to the rules for “some” and “any.” Match each numbered word balloon to the exception that is being used. You may want to look at the rules on page 3 of this handout, or the chart of exceptions on page 4. An answer key appears on page 5 of this handout.



1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Any vs. Some: The Basic Rules:

1) A word containing “**any**” can only be used in a negative statement that contains the word “*not*.” Take the adverb “**anymore**.” You can say “I *don't* live in this house **anymore**.” But you can't say “I live in this house **anymore**.”

2) Words containing “**some**” can only be used in positive statements. This can be seen with the pronoun “**somebody**.” It's possible to say “I heard it from **somebody**.” However, “I *didn't* hear it from **somebody**” is ungrammatical.

3) You can break rules 1 and 2 in the following kinds of sentences: yes/no questions, conditional statements, statements of ability, statements of disagreement or contradiction, and statements that use the adjectives “hardly” and “barely.” For details, see the chart of exceptions on the next page.

Exceptions to the Rules for “Any” and “Some”

Exception	How you can break the rules	Example sentences
<i>Yes/no questions</i>	Yes/no questions can use some or any . It doesn't matter if the question itself is negative or positive.	Are there any cookies? Are there some cookies? <i>Aren't</i> there any cookies? <i>Aren't</i> there some cookies?
<u>Conditional</u> statements	In conditional statements that use words such as “if” or “unless,” you can use either some or any . Just like yes/no questions, it doesn't matter if the conditional statement is negative or positive.	I <i>won't</i> do it if anyone objects. I <i>won't</i> do it if someone objects. I'll do it unless someone objects. I'll do it unless anyone objects.
<i>Statements of ability</i>	In statements of ability, you can use some or any freely, whether the ability statement is positive or negative.	She can do anything . It's <i>not</i> possible for her to do anything . She is able to do something about this. She is <i>not</i> able to do something about this.
<i>Statements of disagreement or contradiction that repeat words for emphasis</i>	When you respond to a statement by contradicting or disagreeing with it, you can use the statement's original words. You can even do this if the original statement is negative, but your response is positive. (Or if you respond to a positive statement with a negative statement.)	You think he's going to do something ? Well, he's <i>not</i> going to do something ! I thought he <i>wouldn't</i> eat anything , but it turned out he <i>would</i> eat anything . He ate all the food in the house!
<i>Statements that use the adjectives “hardly” or “barely”</i>	You can use any in a positive statement, if the statement uses the adjectives “hardly” or “barely.”	He knows <i>barely</i> anything about fixing cars. <i>Hardly</i> anyone believes he will be able to fix your car.

Answer Key

Activity 1:

Scientists who study pollution have found **some** obvious human causes for degradation of the environment. The way people generate electricity and power their vehicles is especially significant; some scientists even argue that we must not use **anything** that burns oil.

Sometimes other fossil fuels are used instead of oil. This can be worse or better for the environment. Coal is **something** that is sometimes used rather than oil. It's not used just **anywhere**. It tends to be used in poorer, less developed parts of the world. Coal pollutes the air a lot more than oil, which is why some environmental scientists say that coal shouldn't be used by **anybody** for **any** reason. Propane is **somewhat** better for the environment than coal. Driving cars fueled by propane is a way to pollute the environment less. Unfortunately, in many countries, propane-fueled cars aren't being sold, and cannot be bought by **anyone**.

One thing all scientists can agree on is that global pollution is increasing, and we can't ignore it **anymore**. If **someone** doesn't do something soon, we could start seeing much more serious environmental problems. We can look to our political leaders for help. However, there are things ordinary people can do as well. When **somebody** drives instead of walking, they burn less oil and help the environment. People can also look up **some more** ways to reduce their personal pollution. People should always remember that the waste from the energy they use has to go **somewhere**, even if it doesn't go into your own back yard. Waste less energy, and there will be less pollution.

Activity 2:

- 1) Statement that uses the adjective "hardly" or "barely"
- 2) Yes/no question
- 3) Statement of ability
- 4) Statement of disagreement or contradiction that repeats a word for emphasis
- 5) Conditional statement