

## any, *adj.*, *pron.*, and *n.*, and *adv.*

**Pronunciation:** <sup>ⓘ</sup> Brit. /'ɛni/, U.S. /'ɛni/

### Forms:

α. early Old English **aengi** (instrumental singular neuter), early Old English **enine** (*Kentish*, accusative singular masculine), Old English **aneg-** (inflected form, *rare*), Old English **ægne** (accusative singular masculine), Old English **ægnig** (*rare*), Old English **ægnum** (dative singular masculine), Old English **æng-** (inflected form), Old English **ænigg-** (inflected form, *rare*), Old English **ænigh** (*Northumbrian*, *rare*), Old English **ænihg** (*Northumbrian*, *rare*), Old English **æning-** (inflected form), Old English **eneg-** (inflected form, *rare*), Old English **eng-** (inflected form, *rare*), Old English **eng-** (*Northumbrian*, inflected form), Old English **enig** (*Northumbrian*, *rare*), Old English (*rare*)–early Middle English **anig**, Old English–early Middle English **æneg-** (inflected form), Old English–early Middle English **æni**, Old English–early Middle English **ænig**, Old English (*rare*)–early Middle English (in copy of Old English charter) **ænyg**, Old English (*rare*)–early Middle English **enig**, Old English–Middle English (in copy of Old English charter) **aenig**, late Old English **egnig**, late Old English **enug-** (inflected form), late Old English **enyg**, late Old English–early Middle English **eanig**, late Old English–1600s **ani**, early Middle English **aening** (in copy of Old English charter), early Middle English **aningne** (in copy of Old English charter), early Middle English **anj**, early Middle English **anyg**, early Middle English **æn3**, early Middle English **ænie**, early Middle English **æni3**, early Middle English **eaneg-** (inflected form), early Middle English **eini**, early Middle English **en3**, Middle English **aany**, Middle English **aenyng** (in copy of Old English charter), Middle English **ane**, Middle English **ani3**, Middle English **anni**, Middle English **annye**, Middle English **anye**, Middle English **ayny**, Middle English **eani**, Middle English **eaany**, Middle English **ene**, Middle English **eney**, Middle English **enie**, Middle English **eni3**, Middle English **ening** (in copy of Old English charter), Middle English **enye**, Middle English **enyng** (in copy of Old English charter), Middle English **hany**, Middle English **hene**, Middle English **heni**, Middle English **heny**, Middle English–1500s **anny**, Middle English–1500s **eni**, Middle English–1500s **eny**, Middle English–1600s **anie**, Middle English–1600s **enny**, Middle English– **any**, 1600s– **aney**; *English regional* 1700s– **enny**, 1800s– **anny**, 1900s– **henny** (*Lincolnshire*); *U.S. regional* 1800s– **enny**, 1900s– **eeny**; *Scottish* pre-1700 **ane**, pre-1700 **aney**, pre-1700 **anie**, pre-1700 **annie**, pre-1700 **anye**, pre-1700 1700s– **any**; *Irish English* 1800s– **aany**, 1900s– **anny**.

β. late Old English **æigne** (accusative singular masculine), early Middle English **ai**, early Middle English **aie**, early Middle English **æi**, early Middle English **ei**, early Middle English **eie**, early Middle English **ein**, Middle English **ay**, Middle English **en**, Middle English **ey**.

γ. Middle English **hone**, Middle English **honi**, Middle English **hony**, Middle English **one**, Middle English **oney**, Middle English **oni**, Middle English **onie**, Middle English **onny**, Middle English **onye**, Middle English **oony**, Middle English **oonye**, Middle English–1500s (1800s– *U.S. regional*) **ony**, 1500s **onne**; *English regional (northern and north midlands)* 1600s **honie**, 1600s 1800s– **onny**, 1600s 1800s– **ony**, 1800s **oney**; *Scottish* pre-1700 **hony**, pre-1700 **oiny**, pre-1700 **onay**, pre-1700 **one**, pre-1700 **oni**, pre-1700 **onne**, pre-1700 **onyie**, pre-1700 **oony**, pre-1700 1700s–1800s **onny**, pre-1700 1700s–1800s **onye**, pre-1700 1700s–1800s 2000s– **onnie**, pre-1700 1700s– **onie**, pre-1700 1700s– **ony**, pre-1700 1800s– **oney**, 1900s– **oany**; *Irish English (northern)* 1900s– **onny**, 1900s– **ony**.

### Frequency (in current use):

**Origin:** A word inherited from Germanic.

**Etymology:** Cognate with Old Frisian *ēnich*, *ienich*, *ēng*, Old Dutch *einig* (Middle Dutch *ēnich*, *ennich*, Dutch *enig*), Old Saxon *ēnig* (Middle Low German *einich*, *ēnich*), Old High German *einag*, *einīg* (Middle High German *einic*, German *einig*, now usually in plural, *einige* ‘some’), all used as determiners in sense ‘any’ (also Old Icelandic *einigr* anyone, none); apparently originally a specific use (in West Germanic) of the adjective reflected by Old English *ānig*, *ānig* (more usually weak *ānga*) sole, unique, solitary, Old Frisian *ēnich* sole, unique, Old Dutch *einig* sole, unique

(Middle Dutch *ēnich* sole, unique, solitary, Dutch *enig*), Old Saxon *ēnag* sole (Middle Low German *einich*, *ēnich* sole, solitary, in agreement), Middle High German *einic*, *einec* sole, unique, solitary (German *einig* united, in agreement), Old Icelandic *einga-* (in compounds) sole, single, Old Swedish *enigh*, *enge* sole, Old Danish *enigh*, *enge* sole, Gothic *ainaha* sole < the Germanic base of ONE *adj.* + the Germanic base of -Y *suffix*<sup>1</sup>.

With the Germanic adjective compare similarly-formed post-classical Latin *unicus* sole, unique (see UNIQUE *adj.*), Old Church Slavonic *inokŭ* (noun) solitary one, and perhaps Early Irish *oenach* (noun) reunion, gathering.

*Form history.*

In Old English the usual form *ænig* (see *α*. forms) shows i-mutation of the stem vowel; the rare unmutated form *ānig* results either from variation in the vowel of the Germanic suffix (see discussion at -Y *suffix*) or from the analogical influence of *ān* ONE *adj.* The form *ēnig* shows a (typically Kentish) raising of the initial vowel.

The later *α*. forms chiefly show reflexes of Old English *ænig*. Shortening of the initial vowel at different stages of development is reflected in the divergence in modern standard English between the spelling *any* and the pronunciation /'ɛni/. Forms with Middle English short *ǣ* (giving rise to the modern spelling *any*) reflect early shortening (in late Old English) of *æ* to *æ̆*, whereas forms with Middle English short *ĕ* (giving rise to the modern pronunciation /'ɛni/) reflect later shortening of long open *ē*; both shortened forms could sometimes be subject to later lengthening (see E. J. Dobson *Eng. Pronunc. 1500–1700* (ed. 2, 1968) II. §70). In Middle English forms in *e* are predominantly southern and south midland, while forms in *a* are widespread.

The Middle English *β*. forms (chiefly west midland and south-western) probably show reduction of Old English *ænig* in unstressed position (perhaps originally inferred from a shortening of the accusative singular masculine *æine*; compare late Old English *æigne*). In some cases they can be difficult to distinguish from *AY adv.*

The *γ*. forms (chiefly east midland and northern, although very widespread in later Middle English) probably show diverse origins: continuation of Old English *ānig*, as well as continuing influence from ONE *adj.* (compare *δ*. forms at ONE *adj.*, *n.*, and *pron.*), and rounding of short *ǣ* before *n* (aided, especially in northern Middle English and Older Scots, by association with similarly developed forms of MANY *adj.*; compare forms at that entry).

Occasional Old English and Middle English forms in *-ing* apparently show assimilation of the ending to -ING *suffix*<sub>3</sub>; perhaps compare Old High German *eining* any, (as pronoun) anyone.

*History of usage.*

Use as an indefinite adjective in non-affirmative contexts is well-established already in Old English. Use in affirmative and emphatic contexts is also found (see sense A. 1c), but the word is less freely used in such contexts than in modern English, where it can occasionally be near-synonymous with EVERY *adj.*

*Use of stressed and unstressed forms in modern English.*

In use with singular count noun only in stressed form. In use with plural or mass noun in either stressed or (typically) unstressed form.

## **A. *adj.* (*determiner*).**

### **1.**

**a.** In interrogative, hypothetical, and conditional contexts: (with singular count noun) used to refer to an unspecified member of a particular class; (with plural or mass noun) used to refer to an unspecified number or quantity of a thing or things, no matter how much or how many; some.

- OE *West Saxon Gospels: John* (Corpus Cambr.) iv. 33 Ða cwædon his leorningnihtas him betwynan hwæðer ænig man [L. *aliquis*] him mete brohte.
- OE *Laws: Norðhymbra Preosta Lagu* (Corpus Cambr.) ii. §1. 380 Gif hit ænig preost elles gedo, þolige his wurðscipes & gefereana freondscipes.
- a1250 *Ureisun ure Louerde* (Nero) in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 201 (MED) Hwi luuie ich ei þing bute þe one?
- c1275 ( ▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1963) l. 2131 3ef æi mon him liðere dude.
- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 49 Huanne þe man heþ uela3rede myd enye wyfmane.
- ?a1425 ( ▶ c1400) *Mandeville's Trav.* (Titus C.xvi) (1919) 20 3if ony man do þere jnne ony maner metall.
- 1480 *Cronicles Eng.* (Caxton) ccxxxij. sig. q7 By hym or by any othir.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Gal. vi. A Yf eny man be ouertaken of a faute.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Psalms iv. 6 Who wil shew vs any good?
- 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Treat. Bulk & Selvedge* 148 To think of any other..way of making the body the souls inholder.
- 1700 T. BROWN *Amusem. Serious & Comical* iii. 31 Have you any Use in your Country for Upright Honesty?
- 1793 R. BURNS *Let.* 26 Apr. (2003) II. 212 If any opaque-souled lubber of mankind complain.
- 1849 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 37 The best governed country of which he had any knowledge.
- 1880 *Admin. Rep. Madras Municipality 1879* App. 166 Buckets or carts should be stationed at certain places such as public latrines where the house sweepers could bring any night-soil.
- 1939 G. B. SHAW *Geneva* 70 Laying a mine in the high seas to slaughter innocent travellers whose intentions,..if they have any intentions, are entirely friendly.
- 2011 A. GHOSH *River of Smoke* iv. 104 Do you have any reason to think that your seed is capable of begetting a male child?

**b. In negative contexts: even a single; the slightest. Cf. NO *adj.* 1a.**

- OE *Genesis A* (1931) 180 Ne þær ænig com blod of benne.
- OE *West Saxon Gospels: Mark* (Corpus Cambr.) xi. 16 He ne geþafode þæt ænig man [L. *quisquam*] ænig fæt ðurh þæt templ bære.
- c1275 ( ▶ ?a1200) LA3AMON *Brut* (Calig.) (1978) l. 15578 Nas hit nauere isæid..þat æuer ær weore æi swa muchel ferde..þurh ænie king to-gadere.
- 1389 in C. Innes *Liber Sancte Marie de Melros* (1837) 449 That the forsaid wollys..yhe suffre..to pas withoutyn ony askying or takyng of custume.
- ▶ c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 118 Neuere saue in late daies was eny clok telling the houris.
- 1508 J. FISHER *Treat. Penyt. Psalmes* sig. aa.ii I shall not declare to you any parte of the epystle.
- 1567 W. PAINTER *Palace of Pleasure* II. xxv. f. 237<sup>v</sup> You abide in such extasie the space of xl. houres at the least without any beating of poulse or other perceptible motion.
- 1600 R. SURFLET tr. C. Estienne & J. Liébault *Maison Rustique* VII. xxv. 847 He must not vncouple any of his dogs: but onely marke the way that the Hart runneth.
- 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriotaphia: Urne-buriall* Ep. Ded. sig. A2<sup>v</sup> We present not these as any strange sight.
- 1712 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 503. ¶2 The Offence does not come under any law.
- 1790 E. BURKE *Refl. Revol. in France* 23 It ought not to be done at any time.
- 1811 DUKE OF WELLINGTON *Let. to C. Stuart* 12 Jan. in *Dispatches* (1837) VII. 91 I conduct the operations of the Portuguese army as Marshal General, without any reference to the Secretariat.
- 1870 H. A. NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* (1880) 463 In..fish there is never any breast-bone.

- 1920 D. E. LYON *How to keep Bees for Profit* iv. 34 The bees cannot tolerate any foreign object in their homes.
- 1971 D. CRYSTAL *Linguistics Interlude* 134 A noun phrase may not have any separate intonation pattern at all.
- 2006 C. C. E. VERMAAK *Confessions of Dyslexic Virgin* 194 Mom never wore any form of make up.

**c. With singular noun in affirmative contexts, frequently with emphatic force: used to refer to a member of a particular group or class without distinction or limitation (hence implying every member of the class or group, since every one may in turn be taken as a representative).**

- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 1st Ser.* (Royal) (1997) i. 180 Ða wearð he & ealle his geferan forcuþran & wyrsan þonne ænig oðer gesceaft.
- OE ÆLFRIC *Lives of Saints* (Julius) (1881) I. 440 Ða þe hreþodon þæs reafes ænigne dæl þe heo mid bewunden wæs, wurdon sona hale.
- ▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) II. xviii. cvi. 1256 Smaller pouder þan eny fyle mighte make.
- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Trin. Cambr.) l. 700 Þe nedder..was more wise þen any beest.
- 1470 M. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 367 In any wyse..labore to haue an ende of your grete materes.
- 1483 (▶ 1413) tr. G. Deguileville *Pilgrimage of Soul* (Caxton) (1859) v. xiv. 79 Hit is ful hard to ony creature to maken declaracion.
- 1563 J. MAN tr. W. Musculus *Common Places Christian Relig.* 374 b For all that, it is in any wise [L. *omnino*] necessarie.
- 1599 W. SHAKESPEARE *Romeo & Juliet* v. i. 67 Mantuas lawe Is death to any he that vtters them.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merry Wives of Windsor* (1623) I. i. 8 Any time these three hundred yeeres.
- 1699 R. BENTLEY *Diss. Epist. Phalaris* (new ed.) Pref. p. lxvii The Director was consulted by him upon *any* Difficulty.
- a1715 Bp. G. BURNET *Hist. Own Time* (1724) I. 318 It was a common piece of raillery in the Court, upon the death of any Prince, to ask what a person his widow was.
- 1798 J. FERRIAR *Illustr. Sterne* ii. 26 That enable any person to give an answer to any question.
- 1814 I. D'ISRAELI *Quarrels Auth.* II. 185 On speculative points any man may be suddenly converted.
- 1914 N. A. HARVEY *Elem. Psychol.* xviii. 215 Nearly any parent will, if necessary, preserve the life of the child at the sacrifice of his own.
- 1968 *Language* 44 211 The publications..are available to any American library on inter-library loan.
- 2005 *1to1 Mag.* Oct. 20/2 There are strategies that any company can use to cultivate customer engagement.

## 2. With quantitative force.

**a. With plural or mass noun: used to refer to a number, however great or small, of (separable things), or a quantity or amount of (a substance, etc.), even the smallest.**

- OE ÆLFRIC *Catholic Homilies: 2nd Ser.* (Cambr. Gg.3.28) xvi. 164 Ge cnapan, hæbbe ge ænige syflinge begyten?
- ?a1160 *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1137 Ða namen hi þa men þe hi wenden ðat ani god hefden.

- c1225 ( ▶ ?c1200) *St. Juliana* (Bodl.) l. 95 (MED) Hire feader feng on earst feire on to lokin, 3ef he mahte wið eani luue speden.
- 1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 190 (MED) He acsede..yef he hedde eny zeluer.
- 1466 in C. Innes *Registrum de Dunfermelyn* (1842) 356 Giff..I..gevis ony leiffe..to mak ony drauchtis of the said Magdelan burn.
- c1485 ( ▶ 1456) G. HAY *Bk. Law of Armys* (2005) 92 How suld be punyyst folk yat beris othir mennis armes but leue to do thame ony lak?
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Luke xxiv. 41 Haue ye here eny meate? [So in *Cranmer*, *Genev.*, and 1611; Wyclif, ony thing that schal be eten, *Rhem.*, any thing to be eaten.]
- 1533 J. FRITH *Bk. answeringe Mores Let.* sig. C.iv Yf he had any Iudgement at all he might well perceyue that [etc.].
- 1553 R. EDEN in tr. S. Münster *Treat. Neue India* Pref. sig. Aj<sup>v</sup> Whiche viage is sufficiently knowen to suche as haue any skyl in Geographie.
- 1563 J. FOXE *Actes & Monuments* 893/2 Let the priest rence his hands, lest any parcels of the body or bloud be left behind in his fingers or in the chalice.
- 1607 G. MARKHAM *Cavelarice* VI. 12 If there be any tussocks of long grasse, rushes, or dead fogge.
- 1687 C. SEDLEY *Bellamira* III. i. 29 Have you any *Mirabilis*?
- 1711 *London Gaz.* No. 4863/4 Very little if any white about him.
- 1766 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* II. xii. 241 Have you any more blocks, madam, for the hewing out of our Mercuries?
- 1831 J. CRABB *Gipsies' Advocate* xiv. 134 I asked them if they had any books.
- 1854 J. SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circle Sci., Chem.* Chem. 507 Whilst any lead..remains to be removed.
- 1937 H. JENNINGS et al. *May 12th Mass-observ. Day-surv.* II. 387 I forgot to ask you if you were going to buy any lard to-day.
- 2011 *El Paso (Texas) Times* (Nexis) 9 Sept. Any questioning of governmental restriction gives rise to accusations of anti-patriotism.

**b. Expressing recognized but unspecified value, quantity, duration, etc.:  
appreciable, discernible; significant, consequential.**

- OE WULFSTAN *Evil Rulers* (Hatton 113) (1957) 277 Eal he wearð to woroldscame se þe stod on mane & on misdæde ænige hwile, butan he gewende þe raþor to his Drihtne.
- 1477 EARL RIVERS tr. *Dictes or Sayengis Philosophhres* (Caxton) (1877) lf. 55 Thou shalt gyue me all the good that thou hast of ony valewe [Fr. *tout ce que tu as vaillant*], or thou shalt drynke all the watre of this Ryuier.
- 1591 R. GREENE *Notable Discouery of Coosenage* f. 6 In every Shire City and Towne of any receipt.
- 1696 MARY OF MODENA *Let.* 5 June in M. Hopkirk *Queen Over Water* (1953) x. 231 If his illness lasts any time, i think it necessary he should have some woman to look after him as i sent word by Mr. Wyburn yesterday.
- 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 2284/2 No gre-hound of any value should be run at this course.
- 1822 W. HAZLITT *Table-talk* I. i. 18 To balance himself for any time in the same position the rope-dancer must strain every nerve.
- 1942 *National Geographic Mag.* June p. xii (advt.) The Kiwi bird..cannot migrate with the warm seasons, or travel any distance in search of food.
- 2004 *Smithsonian* Oct. 117/2 Any incident of any importance immediately found its way into a song.

**c. colloquial.** Of number or quantity: great, large, considerable; (also *hyperbolically*) unlimited, endless. See also *any amount (of)* at AMOUNT *n.*  
Phrases 2b.

- 1758 R. DOSSIE *Handmaid to Arts* II. 214 It may not be improper, where there is a prospect of keeping the wooden print for any length of time, to use very thin plank.
- 1826 R. GOURLAY *Appeal to Common Sense, Mind, & Manhood Brit. Nation* p. xxxv I had any quantity, of the very best quality [sc. of House of Commons paper], furnished me, with ready-made pens by the dozen.
- 1845 in N.E. Eliason *Tarheel Talk* (1956) 277 He will find any number of pretty Hookers in the Brick row not far from French's hotel.
- 1861 O. W. NORTON *Army Lett.* (1903) 26 In the woods near us we found any quantity of grapes and chinquapins.
- 1862 O. W. NORTON *Army Lett.* (1903) 50 We cut down any number of the poles.
- 1946 V. BELL *Let.* 20 Dec. in *Sel. Lett.* (1993) 509 There's a man in Kensington..who seems willing to buy any quantity of *sgraffito* work.
- 2002 *Economist* (Electronic ed.) 3 Aug. 77 She misidentifies a girl from Sunderland..as a Geordie (thereby alienating any number of Mackem readers).

**3. With qualitative force: (in positive or neutral sense) of whatever sort or kind; (in negative or depreciative sense) of whatever kind, however imperfect.**

Frequently as the first element in compounds: see ANYBODY *n.*, ANYTHING *pron.* and *n.* 3, ANYWAY *adv.* 1b, etc.

- OE WULFSTAN *Christian Life* (Hatton) 201 Ne beo ðu ænig manslaga.
- c1405 (▷ c1390) G. CHAUCER *Miller's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 83 She was a Prymerole, a piggesnye For any lord to leggen in his bedde Or yet for any good yeman to wedde.
- ?1529 R. HYRDE tr. J. L. Vives *Instr. Christen Woman* I. xvi. sig. S<sup>v</sup> Men neuer caste any faouere to a woman, but for some good propretie.
- 1571 J. NORTHBROOKE *Spiritus est Vicarius Christi: Poore Mans Garden* f. 100 Any truthe what soeuer it bee, is better then any thyng, that can of our owne heade be deuised of vs.
- 1665 R. HOWARD *Committee* III. i, in *Four New Plays* 95 Now am I ready for any Plot; I'le go find some of these Agitants.
- 1699 J. DUNTON *Dublin Scuffle* 103 Any Excuse is better than none.
- 1762 O. GOLDSMITH *Citizen of World* II. 98 Marriage is at present so much out of fashion, that a lady is very well off, who can get any husband at all.
- 1799 T. BURNS *Serm.* 49 Some are studying to be rich by any means; others studying how to cheat,..and some are even studying how to set the world on fire.
- 1868 M. PATTISON *Suggestions Acad. Organisation* 2 The danger is..that any reform should be adopted because some reform is required.
- 1879 *Scribner's Monthly* Nov. 37/1 One of the common trees that may be found on almost any lawn.
- 1920 *Public Libraries* Jan. 39/2 Any change would be an improvement.
- 1925 *Fresno (Calif.) Bee* 1 Aug. The prevailing psychology of Hollywood is that any publicity is good publicity.
- 2003 W. SALETAN *Bearing Right* (2004) vii. 174 What riled the senator wasn't just any unwanted pregnancy, but pregnancy by rape.

**4.**

**a.** Followed by *one* (as pro-form or, in early use, emphatic pronoun), with anaphoric reference and limiting force (cf. ONE *pron.* 13).

- OE CYNEWULF *Crist II* 683 Swa se waldend us, godbearn on grundum, his giefte bryttað. Nyle he ængum anum ealle gesyllan gæstes snyttru.
- 1536 J. GWYNNETH *Confut. Fyrst Parte Frythes Boke* sig. h.iiiv Thou mayste rather blame me, for the superfluyte of many thynges mo then neded. Then for the lack of any one.
- 1567 W. PAINTER *Palace of Pleasure* II. xx. f. 134<sup>v</sup> Behold Christian, if amongs al these roabes, there be any one which thou hast seene before.
- 1657 J. DAVIES tr. V. de Voiture *Lett.* I. iv. 7 Of all those Enchantments which he hath dissolv'd, there is not any one which you could not have master'd.
- 1797 *Monthly Mag.* Sept. 196/1 Their authority may be a means of deterring many persons from applying their minds to this subject; yet there is scarcely any one which more requires investigation.
- 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. of Farm* II. 699 See that all the pigs are safe, and..remove any one immediately that..may have died in the pigging.
- 1895 F. T. LENT *Sound Sense in Suburban Archit.* vi. 68 Among the many building papers which are now flooding the markets, it is a difficult matter to choose any one that is really the best.
- 1922 *School & Society* 10 June 640/2 There should be formed in Halifax an overhead university connected with all the colleges, but not particularly with any one.
- 2005 R. HUME *Life with Birds* 284 There were other days like this in the Mara—I could pick any one at random.

**b.** Followed by *one* (as adjective) with limiting force (cf. ONE *adj.* 3a).

- c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 384 Eny oon person.
- 1577 S. Augustines Manuell in *Certaine Prayers S. Augustines Medit.* (rev. ed.) sig. Pv Neither soule, fleshe, nor reason can in any one thyng please thee.
- 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomatologia Anglo-Lat.* 26 I understand not any one word.
- 1710 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 118. ¶12 I shall not allow the reviving of any one Part of that antient Mode.
- 1833 H. MARTINEAU *Messrs. Vanderput & Snoek* i. 1 That any one district of Amsterdam was busier than another at any one hour.
- 1885 G. L. GOODALE in A. Gray & G. L. Goodale *Bot. Text-bk.* (ed. 6) II. i. ii. 95 Latex-cells are not restricted to any one organ of the plant.
- 1925 A. N. WHITEHEAD *Sci. & Mod. World* 143 It is an exaggeration to attribute a general change in a climate of thought to any one piece of writing.
- 2007 *Church Times* 13 Apr. 9/5 It is no longer conceivable for any one Church of the Christian *oikumene* to go it alone.

**B.** *pron.* and *n.*

**1.**

**a.** Chiefly in negative, interrogative, and conditional contexts: any person or persons at all; even a single individual; (also) a given individual or group of individuals; someone, some people. Cf. ANYONE *pron.* 1.

Now less common than *anyone* or *anybody*.

- OE (Northumbrian) *Lindisf. Gospels: Mark xi. 16* *Et non sinebat ut quisquam transferret uas per templum :*  
& ne gelefde þætte ænig [OE West Saxon Gospels: *Corpus Cambr. ænig man*] oferferede faet ðerh þæt tempel.
- OE ÆLFRIC *Lives of Saints* (Julius) (1881) I. 474 Ne sege þu heononforð þæt ænig sy his gelica.
- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 9938 He nolde nohht. Þatt aniȝ sholde dwellenn.
- a1250 *Wohunge ure Lauerd* in R. Morris *Old Eng. Homilies* (1868) 1st Ser. 271 (MED) Is ani ricchere þen þu, mi leof, þat rixles in heuene?
- c1325 ( ▶ c1300) *Chron. Robert of Gloucester* (Calig.) 7721 Ȝif þat eni him wrapþede, adoun he was anon.
- 1472 J. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 454 Yit have I..nott leffte any at hys most neede.
- 1550 J. HEYWOOD *Hundred Epigrammes* iii. sig. Aiiii Please they any, That serue many? Nay.
- 1584 T. COGAN *Hauen of Health* ccxvii. 216 Wherefore if any be desirous to vomit, let them rather go to the Sea.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) 2 Pet. iii. 9 The Lord is..not willing that any should perish.
- 1686 R. PLOT *Nat. Hist. Staffs.* viii. 316 Into which Society when any are admitted, they call a meeting.
- 1764 S. LOWTHION *Friendship of visiting Fatherless* 27 Whether this may not be one reason why scarce any are educating, amongst *us*, for the ministry, I shall not positively determine.
- 1796 E. GIBBON *Let.* 19 Dec. (1956) II. 133 You may say in general in the family (if any should bark) that you are satisfied with my conduct.
- 1827 J. F. COOPER *Prairie* II. v. 68 If any can pretend to know the world, or to have seen scary sights, it is myself!
- 1885 H. R. HAGGARD *King Solomon's Mines* vii. 117 If any should wish a further proof.
- 1933 R. SENCOURT *Napoleon III* II. ix. 190 The effect on the modern Emperor..was more than any could have guessed.
- 1968 F. EXLEY *Fan's Notes* vi. 288 So amenably courageous in leaving his door ajar for any who would enter.
- 1977 G. F. NEWMAN *Detective's Tale* 74 Any who did it [sc. investigating complaints] with cheerful willingness usually applied to join A10.

**b.** In affirmative contexts, frequently with emphatic force: any person without distinction or limitation; (hence implying every person: see sense A. 1c). Cf. ANYONE *pron.* 2.

- c1580 ( ▶ 1438) tr. *Bk. Alexander* (1927) III. II. 6801 Mare than ony that leuand is [Fr. *plus que nus qui soit vis*].
- 1628 G. WITHER *Britain's Remembrancer* i. f. 30<sup>v</sup> Thou art for any who in thee beleeves, Though Traytors, Strumpets, Murtherers, or Theeves.
- 1665 J. CROWNE *Pandion & Amphigenia* I. 38 Infinitely beneath any, who are endued with the smallest portion of a Royal spirit.
- 1705 J. ADDISON *Remarks Italy* Pref. sig. A4 [He] has wrote a more correct Account of Italy in general than any before him.
- 1827 R. COBBOLD *Valentine Verses* 222 I know the stage, the tricks the actors play, And mark their characters as any may.
- 1862 M. L. WHATELY *Ragged Life Egypt* (1863) x. 88 It [is] hard for any who are not desert-bred to find their way.
- 1966 R. ARDREY *Territorial Imperative* (1967) viii. 283 Pessimism, under the rule of a *Pax Britannica*, was a dirty little luxury which any could afford.

2006 G. JENNINGS *Aztec Rage* (2007) i. 1 The great warhorses..crushed any before them under their heavy hooves.

## 2.

**a. With anaphoric or cataphoric reference: one or some (of that previously or subsequently mentioned). Chiefly in negative, interrogative, and conditional contexts.**

OE WULFSTAN *Canons of Edgar* (Corpus Cambr.) (1972) xli. 10 We lærað þæt ælc calic gegoten beo þe man husl on halgige, and on treowenum ne halgige man ænig.

IOE *Anglo-Saxon Chron.* (Laud) anno 1103 Eac on morgen..gedyde se wind swa mycel to hearne her on lande..swa nan man ne ge munde þat æfre ænig ær gedyde.

c1390 (► ?c1350) *Joseph of Arimathie* (1871) l. 307 (MED) I beo-take þe..soules to kepe; 3if eni þorw þi defaute falle fro my riche, At þe day of Iuggement þou beost ioyned harde.

1477 in J. Stuart *Misc. Spalding Club* (1842) II. 253 We sal gif him the best counsale we can quhen he ony askis at ws.

1583 A. GOLDING tr. J. Calvin *Serm. on Deuteronomie* xlvi. 276 As excellent a lesson as a man shall read any.

1591 R. GREENE *Notable Discouery of Coosenage* f. 5<sup>v</sup> [He] pawnes his rings if he hath any, his sword, his cloake, or else what he hath about him.

a1625 J. FLETCHER *Rule a Wife* (1640) III. 30 *Cac.* Ever thank him that has mony. *Sanc.* Wilt thou lend mee any?

a1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Certain Misc. Tracts* (1683) v. 115 This, if any, may probably destroy that obstinate Disease.

1741 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. lxi. 410 Must you, my Lord,..add to my Plagues, if I have any?

1769 W. FALCONER *Universal Dict. Marine at Ship-building* The pointers, if any, are..fixed across the hold diagonally to support the beams.

1839 S. G. MORTON *Crania Americana* 107 The narrowness of the head..is not remarkable, and very slight pressure, if any, has been applied to the frontal bone.

1883 *Scotsman* 11 July 5/3 The mean temperature of the month was lower than any recorded since 1879.

1928 P. GRAINGER *Let.* 31 Jan. in *All-round Man* (1994) 88 The whole tone of the letter must be called a greater blow to my hopes than any I have yet had from you.

2010 A. ATWATER-RHODES *Token of Darkness* i. 8 Maybe he should talk to a priest? He didn't know any.

## **b. Followed by of.**

In Old English and early Middle English also with partitive genitive.

OE *St. Andrew* (Corpus Cambr.) in F. G. Cassidy & R. N. Ringler *Bright's Old Eng. Gram. & Reader* (1971) 214 For þon þe þu eart blind, þu ne gesihst ænigne of Godes þam halgum.

OE WÆRFERÐ tr. Gregory *Dialogues* (Corpus Cambr.) (1900) I. x. 79 Saga me..hwæðer þu ongæte his wundra ænigu.

c1175 (► OE) *Homily: Hist. Holy Rood-tree* (Bodl. 343) (1894) 6 3if ic æni3 þare 3yfæ habbe þe ðu 3yrnende bist.

c1225 (► ?c1200) *Hali Meidhad* (Bodl.) (1940) 495 3ef hit is misboren..& wonti ei [a1250 *Titus* eni] of his limen, Oðer sum mis feare, hit is sorhe to hire.

1340 *Ayenbite* (1866) 5 (MED) Huo þet agelt ine enie of þe ilke hestes.

► c1384 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Royal) (1850) James i. 5 If ony of 3ou nedith wisdom, axe he of God.

- 1409 in J. Stuart & G. Burnett *Exchequer Rolls Scotl.* (1880) IV. p. ccxi Gif..[they] rebellis or disobesis till ony of the saide lordis again resoun.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) James i. 5 If eny of you lacke wysdome.
- 1567 J. JEWEL *Def. Apol. Churche Eng.* v. vi. §7. 533 It is a sinne, as greate as Sacrilege, or Churche robbinge, to reason of any of the Popes dooinges.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Winter's Tale* (1623) III. iii. 127 If there be any of him left, Ile bury it.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* II. xxviii. 164 In any of these cases, the print left by the Seal, will be obscure.
- 1711 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 154. ¶2 How do you know more than any of us?
- 1798 J. AUSTEN *Let.* 27 Oct. (1995) 17 Dame Tilbury's daughter has lain-in—Shall I give her any of your Baby Cloathes?
- 1837 E. HAYES *Crimes & Punishments* II. xiii. 631 As every count in the indictment contains a distinct charge, there is no doubt that the jury may acquit or convict on any of them.
- 1876 J. HARLEY *Royle's Man. Materia Med.* (ed. 6) 371 Oats contain a larger proportion of gluten than any of the other cereals in use.
- 1924 V. SACKVILLE-WEST *Let.* 22 Aug. in *Let. to V. Woolf* (1984) 43 I like you a fabulous lot; and any of my friends could tell you *that*.
- 2011 *Independent* 24 Feb. 15/1 I had always ambled through life, never suffering from..any of the ills the urban mind is prey to.

### 3. One of two things indifferently; either. Now *nonstandard*.

In early use frequently in † **any of both**: either of two (*obsolete*).

- c1400 in J. Slater *Early Scots Texts* (Ph.D. thesis, Univ. of Edinb.) (1952) No. 53 Ony of the said partis.
- c1405 ( ▶ c1395) G. CHAUCER *Friar's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 233 If that any [c1415 *Corpus Oxf.* eny, c1430 *Cambr. Gg.4.27* ony] of vs haue moore than oother Lat hym..parte it with his brother.
- ▶ c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 558 Sithen fewe othere taken eny of hem bothe.
- ?1541 M. COVERDALE *Confut. Standish* sig. f.viiij<sup>v</sup> Doth anie of both these ensamples proue, that [etc.]?
- 1587 A. FLEMING et al. *Holinshed's Chron.* (new ed.) III. 1253/1 Not at all..benefited by anie of them both.
- 1660 R. SOUTH *Interest Deposed* 14 The Ministers of God are not to evade, or take refuge in any of these two forementioned wayes.
- 1795 *Edinb. Mag.* Nov. 400/2 The passage by any of the two bridges is impossible.
- 1809 L. DE TOUSARD *Amer. Artillerist's Compan.* II. vii. 201 The cannonier, who had pointed the gun, could not ascertain..whether any of the two salient points had not been deranged by some shock.
- 1887 M. SALMONSON *From Marriage License Window* viii. 72 We find more religious sects amongst them [sc. the Swedes] than amongst any of the two other nationalities.
- 1922 G. W. EDWARDS *Foreign Commerc. Credits* iv. 53 Many exporters are willing to concede that a bank may cancel its advice at any of the two points mentioned above.
- 1996 C. I. MACAFEE *Conc. Ulster Dict.* 7/1 *Any*, either, one of two things.
- 2000 M. R. MATTHEWS *Time for Sci. Educ.* viii. 202 For him [sc. Descartes], the sum of motion of two equal bodies travelling at equal speed in *opposite* directions is double that of any of the pair.

### C. *adv.*

**1. Modifying comparative adjectives and adverbs: in any degree, to any extent, at all.** See also ANY MORE *adj.*, ANY MO *adj.*, ANY MORE *adv.*

Earliest attested in ANY MORE *adj.*

- c1300 *Childhood Jesus* (Laud) 137 in C. Horstmann *Altengl. Legenden* (1875) 1st Ser. 7 With oute ani more lette þat treo ful sone upri3ht him sette.
- c1450 (▷ ?a1422) J. LYDGATE *Life Our Lady* (Durh.) (1961) VI. l. 263 Or he come eny nere.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. clxxxiiij Not mynding to differre the time any farther.
- 1573 J. DAUS tr. H. Bullinger *Hundred Serm. vpon Apocalipse* (rev. ed.) xxxii. f. 91<sup>v</sup> I suppose we neede not to reason any curioslyer hereof at this present.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merry Wives of Windsor* (1623) IV. ii. 113 You are not to goe loose any longer.
- 1711 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 154. ¶4 Before you go any farther.
- 1792 W. COWPER *Let.* 30 Nov. (1984) IV. 246 It is impossible any longer to find a pound of butter or cream to our tea in all the country.
- 1837 *Civil Engineer & Architect's Jrnl.* Oct. 46/1 It is a well-known fact..that contract work is never done any better than can be helped.
- c1875 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* 1st Ser. 347 Few people..would be any the worse for the study.
- 1951 K. FERRIER *Let.* 30 Jan. (2003) v. 141 Knowing you coped with mother too doesn't make me feel any better.
- 2007 *Ecologist* July 97/1 We won't be any the wiser until the earthquakes strike.

**2. U.S. colloquial and British regional. In negative, interrogative, and conditional contexts, modifying a verb: to the slightest extent; at all.**

- 1735 R. LEE in *Virginia Hist. Mag.* 3 356 Y'r colts have not been gentled any, so that Charles can't lead them up.
- 1780 S. HOLTEN *Jrnl.* in *Essex Inst. Hist. Coll.* (1920) LVI. 96 I have not traveled any this day on account of my horses.
- 1827 *Massachusetts Spy* 8 Aug. It can't be that he has been examined and cross-questioned, and differed any.
- 1857 J. G. HOLLAND *Bay-path* iii. 32 Your words come down jest like rain spatterin' on a rock. They don't soak in any.
- 1869 'M. TWAIN' *Innocents Abroad* iv. 45 It is a good tune—you can't improve it any.
- 1886 R. E. G. COLE *Gloss. Words S.-W. Lincs.* 7 He's not worked any sin' June. She can't sit up any.
- 1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 778/2 I don't think he could have suffered any, he looked so peaceful.
- 1904 *Booklovers' Mag.* Mar. 360 One interesting speech followed which did not help matters any.
- 1911 H. P. FAIRCHILD *Greek Immigration to U.S.* 101 Costa was not used to springs, and he did not mind this any.
- 1928 A. E. PEASE *Dict. Dial. N. Riding Yorks.* (at cited word) Did it raan any?
- 1958 *Punch* 17 Sept. 386/1 This couldn't have helped the Yogi any.
- 2006 M. CABOT *Size 12 is not Fat* 89 My humiliation in front of Detective Canavan hasn't helped the matter any.

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**PHRASES**

**P1. any but.**

- a.** Anybody or anything except (that specified).

- 1481 (▷ a1470) J. TIPTOFT tr. Cicero *De Amicitia* (Caxton) sig. a6 They ne shal but denye, that name of goodnesse to be graunted to ony, but to wise men.
- 1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* II. clxix. f. cxciiv/2 No lorde sente any but [Fr. *ne..que ceulx*] of their owne seruauntes.
- 1569 E. FENTON tr. P. Boaistuau *Certaine Secrete Wonders Nature* f. 66 I have red one wonder of hyr, whiche I neuer hearde of in any but in hir, that is, that she never shewed affection to any man.
- 1623 R. JOBSON *Golden Trade* 46 An open house, where stands his chaire empty, vnlawfull for any but himselfe to sit in.
- 1653 I. WALTON *Compl. Angler* vii. 160 This dish of meat is too good for any but Anglers.
- 1728 A. RAMSAY *1st Answer to Somerville* 76 Nor will North Britain yield for fouth Of ilka thing, and fellows couth To ony but her sister South.
- 1741 J. WILFORD *Memorials & Characters* 498 It was wholly impossible for any but those which knew otherwise, not to have mistaken her for their natural Mother.
- 1817 S. T. COLERIDGE *Biographia Literaria* II. xx. 113 Would any but a poet..have brought all the different marks and circumstances of a sea-loch before the mind.
- 1897 E. LYNN LINTON *George Eliot in Women Novelists* 101 A task beyond the power of any but the few Masters of our literature.
- 1963 A. BEALES *Educ. under Penalty* I. ii. 18 The monasteries had long ceased, most of them, to teach any but interns.
- 2003 B. BRYSON *Short Hist. Nearly Everything* (2004) xx. 377 The attributes that distinguish archaea from bacteria are not the sort that would quicken the pulse of any but a biologist.

**b. Of any kind other than (that specified).**

- 1598 tr. J. de Serres *Hist. Coll.* 266 He prohibited all publike exercise of any but the Romish religion.
- 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. i. 9 That the Apostles should leave the Care of all the Churches, to take up that of one Particular Church,..can never go down with any but a Roman Swallow.
- 1727 S. SWITZER *Pract. Kitchen Gardiner* VII. lvi. 295 Some few tops [of parsley] may be indeed used in sallets, but it is a little too coarse for any but rusticated palates.
- 1789 W. COWPER *Let.* 22 Apr. (1982) III. 279 The burthen..too heavy for any but Atlantean shoulders.
- 1826 M. WILMOT *Let.* 25 Sept. (1935) 250 My eyes are too weak to count the threads of any but coarse canvas.
- 1880 W. MACCORMAC *Antiseptic Surg.* 103 The volatility of the acid renders any but recently prepared gauze untrustworthy.
- 1939 *Archit. Rev.* 86 62/1 It is scarcely conceivable that any but an American designer would have designed such a building: it is 'styling' applied to architecture.
- 2004 B. GREENE *Fabric of Cosmos* 513 The wavefunction..is merely a theoretical tool for making (probabilistic) predictions and should not be accorded any but mathematical reality.

**P2. any and every:** each without exception (*of* the specified kind); every single; each and every. Cf. *all and sundry* at ALL *adj., pron., n., adv.,* and *conj.* Phrases 5b.

- 1558–9 *Act 1 Elizabeth I* c. 20 in *Statutes of Realm* (1963) IV. I. 382 And of every Twentye shillings value of Tynne and Pewter Vessell caried oute of thy yo<sup>r</sup> Realme by any and every Marchaunte Alyen dij d. over and above the xij d. aforesayd.
- 1587 J. BRIDGES *Def. Govt. Church of Eng.* v. 462 His authoritie excelled any and euery one of his fellowes.

- a1651 *Disc. Difference Long Prayers* 11 in R. Steward *Several Short, but Seasonable Disc.* (1684) Their hands were employed in any and every of their works upon earth.
- 1793 T. JEFFERSON *Rep.* 16 Dec. in *Public & Private Papers* (1990) 120 Where a nation refuses permission to our merchants and factors to reside within certain parts of their dominions, we may..refuse residence to theirs in any and every part of ours.
- 1833 J. FORBES et al. *Cycl. Pract. Med.* II. 378/2 The term misplaced gout..has been applied to any and every incidental disease occurring in a gouty habit.
- 1888 *Sat. Rev.* 4 Aug. 133/1 Those who..profess themselves willing to take, 'lying down', any and every inconvenience that the victorious Irish may inflict.
- 1956 A. WILSON *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes* I. iv. 172 The brother..is a modern Churchman, which means, as far as I can see, an attachment to any and every belief save the dogmas of his own religion.
- 2005 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 4 Mar. 20/1 Betrayal, booze and bad luck put paid to any and every scheme.

**P3. any day (also minute, moment, time, etc.):** (anticipating a possible event or outcome) very soon; imminently; within a short time. Also in form **any day now** and variants.

Cf. *any day (of the week)* at DAY *n.* Phrases 9g.

- 1770 L. CARTER *Diary* 31 Aug. (1965) I. 479 Those hands..might any time produce me 500 bushels of wheat which they could not do when sown in Tobacco ground.
- 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* II. v. 132 A crater-crust which may crack and spue fire any day.
- 1865 'L. CARROLL' *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* viii. 122 Alice..had not as yet had any dispute with the Queen, but she knew that it might happen any minute.
- 1924 P. G. WODEHOUSE *Bill the Conqueror* ii. 32 He said this girl..might be leaving the party any moment now.
- 1956 W. GOLDING *Pincher Martin* (1960) 139 I shall be rescued any day now.
- 2001 C. GLAZEBROOK *Madolscents* 17 Baby Nathan looks as if he could wake up and start bawling for his dinner any second.

**P4. Originally and chiefly U.S. any which way:** in any way whatsoever; in whatever way; (also) in a random way, haphazardly. Cf. EVERY WHICH WAY *adv.*

- 1831 *Star & Republican Banner (Gettysburg, Pa.)* 27 Dec. I can make nayther head not tail to it—nor swallow it up not down—nor git it any which way at all at all.
- 1860 T. C. HALIBURTON *Season-ticket* ii. 53 But bleedin' at the heart, marm, is sudden death any which way you fix it.
- 1936 C. DAY *Life with Father* 213 After the first two or three drawers had had their upper levels fixed up, things were pushed into the others any which way, and when she was through they were locked.
- 1974 T. P. WHITNEY tr. A. Solzhenitsyn *Gulag Archipel.* I. I. v. 193 The tractor was driven any which way by whoever happened along and was quickly ruined.
- 2005 *Olive* July 135/1 The locals continue to prepare it any which way, pounding it, mincing it, marinating it, frying it, steaming it, grilling it and stewing it in gravy.

**P5. *any good*:** (in predicative use, chiefly in negative, interrogative, and conditional contexts) at all good (in various senses); of any ability, competence, quality, utility, or value.

[Perhaps originally after *no good*.]

- 1866 *Good Words* Jan. 2/2 The blacksmith's house, you know, was burned down, and his kind of a register—if it was any good, and I am sure I don't know if it was any good—and then that woman died.
- 1880 *Harper's Mag.* June 138/1 And when I buy a goose unplucked, if his quills are any good, his legs won't carve, and his gizzard is full of gravel-stones!
- 1901 *Punch* 31 July 88/2 Oh, chuck it! I never was any good at arithmetic!
- 1914 C. E. A. PHILIPPS *Let.* 13 Nov. in L. Housman *War Lett. Fallen Englishmen* (2002) 213 Nothing can shift our squadron unless a Black Maria happens to do us in, as no trench is any good against them.
- 1985 *Guardian* 15 July 1/8 Are work shadow schemes any good?
- 2014 S. DHARMAPALA *Saree* (2015) 28 You must practise designing to be any good at it.

**P6. colloquial.**

**a. *any old*:** any person or thing of a specified type without distinction or discrimination; any — whatsoever. Cf. sense A. 3 and OLD *adj.* 16c.

- [1833 R. SHARP *Diary* 5 Mar. (1997) 407 Newlove was selling his Furniture by Auction yesterday.; we neither wanted any old Riff Raff, nor had any Money to waste in it.]
- 1896 G. ADE *Artie* xviii. 171 Any old farmer..could buy up him and a hundred more like him.
- 1911 R. W. CHAMBERS *Common Law* ii. 63 'Would you like to have a chance to study?'..'Study? What?' 'Sculpture—any old thing!'
- 1958 B. HAMILTON *Too Much of Water* iv. 78 His steward..just shoves some fruit in his cabin, any old time.
- 2002 M. McGRATH *Silvertown* (2003) viii. 86 Len likes his morning slice. And not just any old slice, but the right kind of slice fried in the right kind of way.

**b. *any old thing*:** see THING *n.*<sup>1</sup> Phrases 15.

**c. *any old how*.**

**(a)** In any case; at any rate. Cf. ANYHOW *adv.* 3a.

- 1900 L. S. DORR *Mills of Gods* ii. 11 I'd like to know what he was after. If it was to find out how many Dacres there be, he didn't get full measure, pressed down, running over, any old how.
- 1924 P. CRESWICK *Beaten Path* xxxiii. 183 Yes, she likes me. But liking's nothing. Well, any old how, I had to tell you.
- 1958 F. NORMAN *Bang to Rights* II. 34 Any old how..he managed to get behind him.
- 1995 K. COLES *Measurable World* II. vi. 141 I'd say you were lucky to get him, any old how.

**(b)** In a haphazard manner; unmethodically, carelessly. Cf. ANYHOW *adv.*

2.

- 1904 E. C. WILSON *Pedagogues & Parents* x. 201 The teacher hunts down the examples in various arithmetics, writes them on the board, often hurriedly.; he does it accurately, perhaps, but 'any old how'.

- 1933 *Punch* 23 Aug. 216/1 Scenes like a splash of confetti Hurl'd any old how.
- 1937 M. HILLIS *Orchids on your Budget* v. 81 The kind of woman who gets herself up any-old-how..deserves just what she gets.
- 2008 P. HENSHER *Northern Clemency* 179 As you went into the mine, the passages were more and more provisional,..the sides just hacked out any old how.

**d. Originally U.S. *any old way*:** in no particular manner or order; in any way whatsoever; 'any old how'.

- 1936 *Sat. Evening Post* 8 Feb. 17 [A fighter] named Connie McVey.., willing to pick up money any old way.
- 1995 *Gusto!* June 38/1 Strawberries are sexy. Eat them any old way—moussed, marinated in red wine..or topped with chocolate.
- 2003 C. BIRCH *Turn again Home* xvi. 216 The terrorists were dead, killed by rockets and bombs... There were eight of them, lying where they'd been thrown, any old way.

### P7.

**a. *not to have any (of it, that, this)*:** to want no part in something; to turn down a proposition, reject an overture. Later also in more positive sense: to refuse to accept or tolerate something. Usually in continuous tenses. Cf. *not to be taking any* at TAKE *v.* Phrases 5e.

- 1895 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 7 Dec. 776/2 Oh! if there's any hocus-pocus to be done, why, I'm not having any.
- 1905 A. HENDERSON in E. T. Whittaker et al. *Man's Place in Creation* 35 The verdict pronounced by the masses has been: 'If this is religion..then I am not having any of it.'
- 1923 D. H. LAWRENCE *Stud. Classic Amer. Lit.* vii. 133 Hester urges Dimmesdale to go away with her, to a new country, to a new life. He isn't having any.
- 1940 J. HANLEY *Our Time is Gone* 456 Come on, you! Not having any of this now!
- 1951 J. STEINBECK *Burning Bright* I. 24 I came in to tell you once and finally what I think of that stuff you were telling me. I won't have any of it.
- 1990 J. BUFFONG in N. Payne & J. Buffong *Jump-up-and-kiss-me* 189 Mammy wasn't having any of that. She said anybody who 'don't wash their hand' is not staying in her house.
- 2000 D. GINSBERG *Waiting* x. 255 He pointed out to the waitress that she'd charged him incorrectly, but she wasn't having any of it.

**b. *not to get any change out of*:** see CHANGE *n.* Phrases 5e.

### P8.

**a. *at any cost*:** see COST *n.*<sup>3</sup> Phrases 2a. *at any price*: see PRICE *n.* 7. *at any rate*: see RATE *n.*<sup>1</sup> Phrases 3. *by any chance*: see CHANCE *n., adj., and adv.* Phrases 1. *by any (manner of) means*: see MEAN *n.*<sup>3</sup> Phrases 4. *in any case*: see CASE *n.*<sup>1</sup> Phrases 4b. *in any sense*: see SENSE *n.* 7. *in any shape or form*: see SHAPE *n.*<sup>1</sup> 9b.

**b. *any other business*:** see BUSINESS *n.* Phrases 25. *any chance of*: see CHANCE *n., adj., and adv.* Additions. *any gate*: see GATE *n.*<sup>2</sup> 2. *to get any*: see GET *v.* Phrases 2f. *any port in a storm*: see PORT *n.*<sup>1</sup> 3c.

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