

Indefinite Substitutes Answer Key

1. **Someone** knocked on the door, but nobody answered.
(*Maria → Someone*)
2. I looked in the fridge, but **nothing** was there.
(*the food I wanted → nothing*)
3. **Everyone** needs to bring their homework tomorrow.
(*all of the students in the class → everyone*)
4. **Several** stayed late to clean up the gym.
(*three of the boys → several*)
5. I thought I heard **someone** calling my name in the hallway.
(*a person → someone*)
6. The teacher asked if **anyone** had a question.
(*any of the children → anyone*)
7. **Both** shared the last piece of cake.
(*the two sisters → both*)
8. **Everybody** was laughing at the joke.
(*every child → everybody*)
9. We expected guests, but **nobody** came to the party.
(*no friends → nobody*)
10. The librarian said that **all** must be returned by Friday.
(*all the books → all*)

Teacher Notes:

- This activity strengthens understanding of how **indefinite pronouns can replace specific nouns** for broader or less specific reference.
- Some replacements have **multiple valid answers** (e.g., “three of the boys” → *several* or *few* depending on tone).
- Encourage students to explain why their chosen pronoun fits and whether it changes the **meaning or emphasis** of the sentence.
- Extension: Have students create **two original sentences** where they first write specific nouns, then replace them with indefinite pronouns.