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Grammar Reference

'Ever' - 'Never'

- '**Ever**,' when used in a **question** (normally in the **simple present** or in the **present perfect**), is placed between the auxiliary and the main verb.

Example: **Do** you **ever play** tennis?
Have you **ever tried** going on the Internet?

Note. '**Sometimes**' is used in **non-interrogative clauses**.

Example: I **sometimes** go swimming.

- '**Ever**' can be used in **affirmative clauses** where '**if**' or a **superlative** is present.

Example: She's **the nicest** girl I've **ever** met.
Visit the Eiffel Tower **if** you **ever** go to Paris.

- The **negation 'never'** is accompanied by **verbs in the affirmative**.

Example: I **never** drink and drive.
I almost **never** subcontract.

- Accordingly, '**ever**' is used instead of '**never**' in clauses already containing **negations**.

Example: **No one ever** comes to visit me.
Nothing's ever perfect.

'Some,' 'any': singular or plural?

When '**some**,' '**any**,' '**none**,' '**all**' and '**most**' refer to a **singular noun**, the verb is **singular**.

When they refer to a **plural noun**, the verb is **plural**.

Example:

Some of the **meal** was really good.

Some of the **books** are quite funny.

None of the **presentation** seems interesting.

None of the **stories** seem interesting.

Nouns without singular forms

Some **plural nouns** have **no singular forms**.

These include the following.

- certain nouns referring to **objects** composed of **two symmetrical parts**, e.g. 'jeans,' 'shorts,' 'pajamas,' 'pants,' or 'scissors'

Note. When used as countable nouns, such nouns are preceded by '**a pair of**.'

Example: My **pants** are too short.

She bought two **pairs of scissors**.

- certain **collective nouns**, e.g. 'clothes,' 'goods,' 'people,' 'cattle,' or 'poultry'

Example: **People** are very friendly here.

Note.

At times, 'people' is the plural form of 'person.'
'Head of cattle,' in which 'head' is invariable, is the singular of 'cattle.'

The rare 'article of clothing' is the singular of 'clothes.'

Example: There were ten **people** at the party.
They have ten **head of cattle**.

- 'savings,' 'riches' and 'remains'

Example:

She used her **savings** to invest in a start-up.