

# Word for Word

## Are There Any Times We Should Use “Anytime” Instead of “Any Time”?

Bryan Tutt, Scientific Editor

If you’ve ever been confused about whether to use *any time* (two words) or *anytime* (one word), you’re not alone. Even experienced writers sometimes have to pause and think about which of these two options is correct in a given sentence.

The two words *any time* form a noun phrase in which the adjective *any* modifies the noun *time*. In contrast, *anytime* is an adverb meaning “at any time,”<sup>1</sup> and it always modifies a verb or verb phrase.

To decide whether to use *anytime*, simply ask yourself whether it could be replaced by its definition, “at any time.” If the answer is yes, then *anytime* is correct.<sup>2</sup>

### Examples:

We do not have any time to spare. (*Any* modifies *time*, and the sentence would not make sense if the words “any time” were replaced by “at any time.”)

I’m not busy today, so call me anytime. (The adverb *anytime* is correct because it could be replaced by “at any time.”)

### References

1. Merriam-Webster.com. Anytime. Accessed December 4, 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/anytime>
2. Dictionary.com. What’s the difference between “anytime” vs. “any time”? Accessed December 4, 2023. <https://www.dictionary.com/e/anytime-vs-any-time>