Will
Hello, and welcome to today’s Grammar Gameshow! I’m your host, Will! – but, I don’t offer to help! And of course let’s not forget Leslie, our all-knowing voice in the sky.

Leslie
Hello everyone!

Will
Tonight we’re going to be asking three questions about…

Leslie
Some and any! Those two confusing words that belong to a group called quantifiers.

Will
OK! Now, let’s meet our contestants!

Nick
Hi, everyone. I’m Nick!

Will
And contestant number two.

Helen
Hello, everyone. I’m Helen!

Will
Welcome back Helen! Ok. Let’s get going and don’t forget you can play along at home too. Our first round is a quick-fire round. Listen to these sentences, and tell me if the missing word is ‘some’ or ‘any’. I need to buy … milk.

Nick
Some!

Leslie
Correct!
Will
Did you have … trouble?

Helen
Any!

Leslie
Correct!

Will
There isn’t … time.
Nick
Any!

Leslie
Correct!

Will
I want … peace and quiet.

Helen
Some!

Leslie
Correct!

Will
Would you like … coffee?

Nick
Any!

Leslie
Wrong!

Will
Oh dear, Nick. That last one should have been ‘some’. If you can tell me why, I’ll give you a point.

Nick
It should be ‘any’. It’s a question. We use ‘any’ in a question

Will
Well observed, but not right I’m afraid. Helen, would you like to have a go?
Helen
Something about requests, right?

Will
Can you give me any more?

Helen
Of course! Will £50 do?

Will
Nicely! Leslie?

Leslie
Well done, Helen! We usually use ‘some’ in affirmative sentences, and ‘any’ in questions and negatives. However, if the question is a request, or an offer to help, we also use ‘some’.

Will
Well done Helen! I’ll expect the money in my account later today. 30 points for you!

Ok - on to our second round. In question one we established that ‘some’ was used in affirmative sentences, and ‘any’ in questions and negatives. Look at these three affirmative sentences and tell me why we can use ‘any’.

a) There’s hardly any food left.
b) He never has any money.
c) They split up without any argument.

Nick
It’s because…I don’t know. I’m so stupid!

Will
Come on, Nick. Don’t be so negative.

Nick
What?

Will
I said…don’t be so negative!

Nick
Negative! Yes! The structure of the sentence is positive, but the meanings are negative because of the words.

Will
Leslie?
Leslie
Very good Nick. As you said, the structures of the sentences are affirmative, but they all contain words that have a negative or limiting meaning, in this case hardly, never and without. This makes the sentences negative, so we can use ‘any’.

Will
Ten points for you. See? Try to have a little more confidence in yourself, eh? I mean, it’s no fun undermining you if you’re already feeling useless. On to our third, and final question. Why is it necessary to use ‘some of’ and ‘any of’ in these two sentences?
I didn’t know any of the people there.
I think some of your friends are here.

Nick
This one’s easy! It’s because they contain the words ‘here’ and ‘there’.

Will
Nope! Totally wrong. Wow, you really messed that one up. Helen?

Helen
Well…maybe it’s because ‘some’ and ‘any’ have another word after them before the noun?

Will
Now, you’re cooking Helen! Leslie?

Leslie
Well done again. When ‘some’ or ‘any’ are followed by a determiner, such as an article or possessive, we use ‘some of’ or ‘any of’.

Will
Good thinking Helen! Six and a half points for you. And that brings us to the end of today’s Grammar Gameshow. Let’s count out the points. And the winner is… Nick! Well done Nick! Just kidding! Helen won! Well done Helen! Here’s what you’ve won!

Leslie
It’s a flip-flop!

Will
Well, Nick, it looks like this is the end. Try to have a little more confidence, eh? Do you have anything to say?

Nick
Please don’t drop me in the pit! I have a wife and two kids!
Will
I'll think about it…No deal. Set loose the crickets! It looks like we’ll need another contestant. Thanks for joining us. Say goodbye, Leslie.

Leslie
Goodbye Leslie

Will
See you next time.