What are some and any?

Some and any are determiners. We use these words before nouns in order to add meaning. Other determiners which you may recognize are both, every, many, most, and no. Some and any don’t refer to a definite quantity or number. For example:

(definite quantity/number) I have two books.
(indefinite) I have some English books. = I have books, but maybe 2 or 3... maybe more.
(definite quantity/number) She visited two countries last spring.
(indefinite) She visited some countries. = She went to 2, 3, or possibly more countries.

What is the sentence structure?

Both some and any appear before nouns. For example:

He couldn’t get any tickets for the concert.
Some people like the taste of beer, but I can’t stand it.

Some and any also are often linked with the following words:

some/any + body: Somebody stole my pen!
some/any + one: I want to marry someone rich and handsome!
some/any + thing: Would you like something to drink?
some/any + where: He didn’t go anywhere for vacation, did he?

How are some and any used?

Any is used in the following situations:

1. In question sentences, such as: Is anyone there?
2. In negative sentences. For example: I don’t have any money this month.
3. When the number/quantity isn’t important: I’m so hungry, I could eat just about anything!

Some is used in the following situations:

1. In positive sentences. For example: I want to go somewhere exciting.
2. When the number/quantity isn’t important. For example: I bought some CDs yesterday.

Is there any additional information on some and any?

Yes. Both words may be used with countable and uncountable nouns. Here are some examples:

(countable noun) He bought some sandwiches for lunch.
(countable noun) He didn't see any stars when he visited Hollywood.
(uncountable noun) He ate some cheese with his sandwiches.
(uncountable noun) He never drinks any coffee at night because then he can't sleep.

In addition, some may be used in question sentences. We do this when we expect the answer to be "yes." We also do this when we are offering or asking for something.

A: Did you bring back some wine when you visited France?
B: Of course I did. I got a few reds that I'm excited about.

We also do this when we are offering or asking for something.

A: Would you like some coffee?
B: Yes, I would. Thank you.
A: Can I have something to drink? I'm thirsty.
B: Sure. What do you want?