ONE WORD VS. TWO

In addition to words that are spelt similarly or that sound alike, there are also a number of words whose meanings differ depending on whether they are written as one word or broken into two separate words.

ANYWAY VS. ANYWAY VS. ANY WAY:

- **Anyway:** Adverb—Nevertheless, anyhow
  
  I can drop the book off at the library; I am going that way anyway.

- **Anyways:** Adverb—Means the same as anyway, but is much more informal and should not be used in formal or academic writing

- **Any way:** Adjective-noun phrase—In any manner
  
  You can write the essay any way you see fit.

ANYTIME VS. ANY TIME:

- **Anytime:** Adverb—At any time, whenever
  
  You can stop by anytime.
  
  Anytime she felt bored, she would begin to draw.

- **Any time:** Noun phrase—Used in the same contexts as anytime
  
  You can stop by any time.
  
  Any time she felt bored, she would begin to draw.

AND unlike anytime, any time can be used with prepositions:

- **Incorrect:** Assistance is available at anytime of the day.
  
  **Correct:** Assistance is available at any time of the day.

Tip: When in doubt, use any time since it is always correct.

AWHILE VS. A WHILE:

- **Awhile:** Adverb—For a short period of time
  
  She stayed in France awhile before returning home.

- **A while:** Noun phrase—A short period of time
  
  It has been a while since the company has hired new personnel.
  
  Like anytime, a while can follow a preposition, while awhile (like anytime), cannot.
  
  **Incorrect:** I haven’t seen you in awhile.
  
  **Correct:** I haven’t seen you in a while.
EVERYDAY VS. EVERY DAY:

- **Everyday**: *Adjective*—Ordinary, unexceptional, regular; *Adjective*—Used each day
  
  Musical and theatrical performances were an **everyday** occurrence at the creative arts school.
  
  We need some **everyday** items from the store: soap, milk, salt, and paper towel.

- **Every day**: *Noun phrase*—Each day
  
  I pass by the store **every day**. **Every day**, her boss sends out an email to the staff.

SOMETIME VS. SOME TIME:

- **Sometime**: *Adverb*—At an indefinite time in the future
  
  You should stop by for a visit sometime after work.

- **Some time**: *Noun phrase*—An indefinite amount of time
  
  It has been quite **some time** since he started working here.

Sources (MLA 8th Edition)


Ticak, Marko. “Anyway, Anyways, or Any Way—What’s the Difference?”, *Grammarly*. https://www.grammarly.com/blog/is-anyways-a-word/?glid=tewKCAIAksyNBhAPEiLaIDBeLA_jqA2KyIl6XxOOGpxWbTCwddjXBylOWGSo8ee0DA5hlmv1Bn
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