

Double Negatives



Double negatives: two 'negative' words in the same sentence. For Standard English to apply one of the negative words must be changed.

I ain't got no pencils → I haven't got any pencils

I don't want none of that → I don't want any of that.

Negative words

- Look at this sentence-
- The boy did not have no bow.
- It does not make sense because it has two negative words (a word that means no) in it. It should say-
- The boy did not have a bow.
- Here are the common words we use to demonstrate that something is negative- no, not, nothing, never, nowhere
- We also add the letters n't to words to make them negative, like doesn't.



Find the negative words in each of these incorrectly written sentences.

- There isn't no point in going out because it's raining.
- The referee said that he didn't want no trouble.
- I don't belong to no swimming club.
- The crocodile hasn't got no whiskers.
- The toy robot didn't do nothing when it was wound up.



Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. **nothing / anything**

- John did not tell his father ----- about the accident.
- John told his father ----- about the accident.

2. **no / any**

- There isn't ----- cake left.
- There is ----- cake left.

3. **never / ever**

- Don't you ----- get tired of knitting?
- Do you ----- get tired of knitting?

