

Negative Structures

1. **Negative Verb Conjugation** = the most common form is the conjugation of the verb in the negative by using 'not'.
She *won't* come to the party tomorrow.
Tom *hasn't* finished the report.
We *aren't* studying Russian this semester.
2. **Negative Imperative** = used to instruct / command or order others. No subject is required.
Don't begin without me.
Don't waste my time.
Don't touch the glass.
3. **Never** - something is never done or has never been done:
She *never* takes time off work.
Mary has *never* returned my calls.
Peter *never* walked to school when he was young.
4. **Double Negatives** - the use of two 'no' words such as 'not' and 'nowhere' is not right. You must use either a 'no' word, or 'any':
He *doesn't* like *anything*. OR He likes *nothing*.
Angela *hasn't* visited *anyone* this month. OR Angela has visited *no one* this month.
She *isn't* going to travel *anywhere*. OR She's going to travel *nowhere*.
5. **Any, anyone, anybody, anything**, etc., = used in negative sentences and questions.
He *doesn't* have *any* time.
Mary *isn't* going to eat *any* dinner.
Peter *hasn't* done *anything* for the past three days.
6. **'No'** words (nowhere, nothing, no one) = can be used in place of 'any' words.
I have *nothing* to say.
The boys invited *no one* to their party.
Timothy has gone *nowhere* this summer.
7. **Nobody or no one / not ... anybody or anyone** - these words all have the same meaning:
Susan saw *nobody* at work today.
Susan saw *no one* at work today.
Susan *didn't* see *anybody* at work today.
Susan *didn't* see *anyone* at work today.
8. **Nothing / not ... anything**
I've eaten *nothing* all day.
I *haven't* eaten *anything* all done.
9. **Nowhere / not ... anywhere**
Shelly has gone *nowhere* this year.
Shelly *hasn't* gone *anywhere* this year.
10. **Neither ... Nor** = used when expressing two negatives together.
I have *neither* had the time *nor* have I had the desire to do my work.
She has *neither* the time *nor* the money to help her friends.