Negative Detective

Spot sentences that need only one negative.

2.LU.1.I "Eliminate double negatives when speaking."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HAS ONE NEGATIVE

This sentence has one negative word, such as no, not, never, or nobody. It clearly means something is not happening.

The puppy will not chase the ball.

HAS A DOUBLE NEGATIVE

This sentence has two negative words working together. In standard English, change it so it has only one negative.

The pilot does not need no map.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle SINGLE or DOUBLE. Then say corrected versions of items 2, 3 and 5 aloud to your teacher or partner, using only one negative and keeping the intended meaning. Your listener checks and helps you retry if needed.

1. Mia has no stickers. SINGLE DOUBLE

2. I don't want no grapes. SINGLE DOUBLE

3. The boys can't hear nothing. SINGLE DOUBLE

4. Nobody opened the gate. SINGLE DOUBLE

5. We didn't bring no lunch. SINGLE DOUBLE

6. My brother never sings. SINGLE DOUBLE

7. There is nothing in the box. SINGLE DOUBLE

8. The rabbit is not hungry. SINGLE DOUBLE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new SINGLE sentence and one new DOUBLE sentence. Say the SINGLE sentence aloud; then orally change the DOUBLE sentence into a single-negative sentence. Your teacher or partner checks the meaning and negative words.

SINGLE _____

DOUBLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a double-negative sentence. Then rewrite it with only one negative. Actually say the corrected sentence to your listener and confirm that it keeps the intended meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Negative Detective

GRADE 2 · 2.LU.1.I

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mia has no stickers.	**SINGLE**	One negative word, no.
2	I don't want no grapes.	**DOUBLE**	Two negatives, don't and no.
3	The boys can't hear nothing.	**DOUBLE**	Two negatives, can't and nothing.
4	Nobody opened the gate.	**SINGLE**	One negative word, nobody.
5	We didn't bring no lunch.	**DOUBLE**	Two negatives, didn't and no.
6	My brother never sings.	**SINGLE**	One negative word, never.
7	There is nothing in the box.	**SINGLE**	One negative word, nothing.
8	The rabbit is not hungry.	**SINGLE**	One negative word, not.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SINGLE**: The moon is not bright tonight.
- **DOUBLE**: We can't buy no balloons.

Challenge: I don't have no coins. I don't have any coins.

Accept Part 2 explanations identifying one negative for SINGLE or two for DOUBLE. Require actual spoken correction, not only a written sort: item 2 can become I don’t want any grapes; item 3 The boys can’t hear anything; item 5 We didn’t bring any lunch. Accept alternatives such as I want no grapes with the same intended meaning. Observe the learner’s corrected own example and challenge spoken with one negative; correct and retry if needed. Part 3 samples fit SINGLE/DOUBLE; corrected balloons example is We can’t buy any balloons. This practices formal standard English without devaluing a learner’s home-language variety. Adult reading of directions and accessible communication support are allowed.