

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 CORRECT or FIX IT.

1. Mia has no stickers.

CORRECT

FIX IT

2. I don't want no grapes.

CORRECT

FIX IT

3. The boys can't hear nothing.

CORRECT

FIX IT

4. Nobody opened the gate.

CORRECT

FIX IT

5. We didn't bring no lunch.

CORRECT

FIX IT

6. My brother never sings.

CORRECT

FIX IT

7. There is nothing in the box.

CORRECT

FIX IT

8. The rabbit is not hungry.

CORRECT

FIX IT

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

Part 2: Pick two numbered sentences. Tell which category each belongs in and name the negative word or words you found. Part 3: Write one new CORRECT sentence and one new FIX IT sentence.

CORRECT _____

FIX IT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a double-negative sentence. Then rewrite it with only one negative.

PART 1 • SORT

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

- **CORRECT:** The moon is not bright tonight.
- **FIX IT:** We can't buy no balloons.

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

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify one negative in a CORRECT sentence or two negatives in a FIX IT sentence. For Part 3, accept any clear new example that fits the category.