Negative Word Detectives

Spot sentences with one negative or two.

3.LU.1.F "Eliminate double negatives when speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ONE OR NO NEGATIVE

This sentence has zero or one negative word. Its meaning is clear.

A turtle will not hide.

DOUBLE NEGATIVE

This sentence uses two negative words together. Change it so it has only one.

My cousin will not choose no stickers.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ONE or DOUBLE for each sentence, then choose two items and tell which negative word or words helped you decide.

1.	I do not want any juice.	ONE DOUBLE
2.	Nobody saw the comet.	ONE DOUBLE
3.	We did not hear no music.	ONE DOUBLE
4.	Neither dog barked.	ONE DOUBLE
5.	The jar has no lid.	ONE DOUBLE
6.	She cannot go nowhere.	ONE DOUBLE
7.	There is not no paint left.	ONE DOUBLE
8.	I never ate olives.	ONE 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 sentence with ONE or no negative word. Then write one new sentence with a DOUBLE negative.

ONE _____

DOUBLE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence without a double negative: I do not need no help.

ANSWER KEY

Negative Word Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.LU.1.F

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I do not want any juice.	**ONE**	It has one negative word, not.
2	Nobody saw the comet.	**ONE**	It has one negative word, nobody.
3	We did not hear no music.	**DOUBLE**	It uses did not and no together.
4	Neither dog barked.	**ONE**	It has one negative word, neither.
5	The jar has no lid.	**ONE**	It has one negative word, no.
6	She cannot go nowhere.	**DOUBLE**	It uses cannot and nowhere together.
7	There is not no paint left.	**DOUBLE**	It uses not and no together.
8	I never ate olives.	**ONE**	It has one negative word, never.

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)

- **ONE**: The frog has no spots.
- **DOUBLE**: We will not bring no snacks.

Challenge: I do not need any help.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the one negative word in a ONE sentence or name both negative words in a DOUBLE sentence. Accept different correct student-created sentences that match each category.