

A double negative is a sentence that has two negative words.

Example: She didn't buy nothing.

In the example there are two negative words: *didn't* and *nothing*. Double negatives are incorrect in formal writing. A sentence should have only one negative. The example may be corrected two different ways.

Correction 1: She didn't buy anything.

Correction 2: She bought nothing.

Common negative words and phrases include:

no, not, nobody, never,
nothing, no one, nor,
nowhere, none, cannot, isn't,
didn't, won't, wasn't, and any
other contraction with *n't*.

Rewrite each sentence below correcting the double negative two ways.

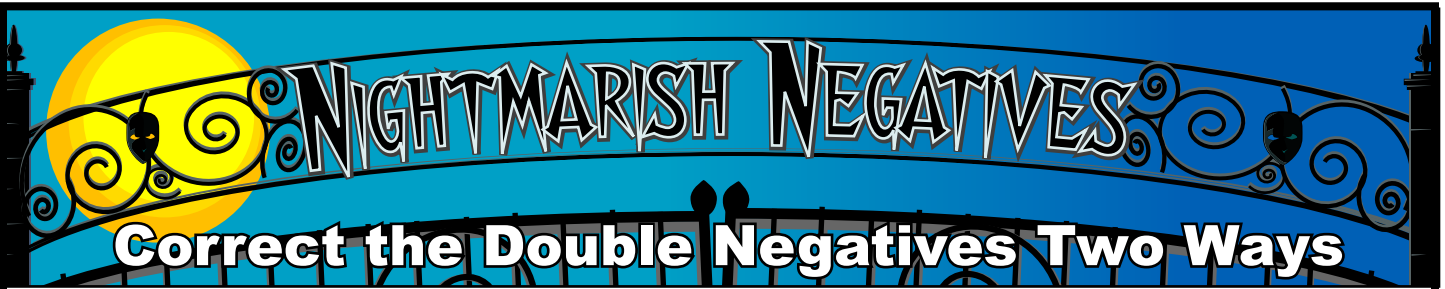
1. The clerk is not saying nothing to us.

2. Carlos doesn't want no snack.

3. I can't find no cat under the bed.

4. Mr. Simpson won't sleep no more.

5. Brittany wasn't happy with no one.



NIGHTMARISH NEGATIVES

Correct the Double Negatives Two Ways

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Example: She didn't buy nothing.

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Correction 1: She didn't buy anything.

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Rewrite each sentence below correcting the double negative two ways.

Students should rewrite the sentence the following ways:

1. The clerk is not saying nothing to us.

The clerk is not saying anything to us.

The clerk is saying nothing to us.

2. Carlos doesn't want no snack.

Carlos doesn't want a snack.

Carlos wants no snack.

3. I can't find no cat under the bed.

I can't find a cat under the bed.

I can find no cat under the bed.

4. Mr. Simpson won't sleep no more.

Mr. Simpson won't sleep anymore.

Mr. Simpson will sleep no more.

5. Brittany wasn't happy with no one.

Brittany was happy with no one.

Brittany wasn't happy with anyone.

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nothing, no one, nor,
nowhere, none, cannot, isn't,
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