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.

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.
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

**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.*
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.

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.