



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

Example: I *never* saw *nobody*.

In the example there are two negative words: *never* and *nobody*. Double negatives are incorrect in formal writing. A sentence should have only one negative. A correct way to write the sentence would be: I never saw anybody.

Correct the double negatives in the sentences below.

**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*.

1. He can't have no fun when his little brother is around.

2. The dog doesn't bite nobody.

3. We never ran nowhere as fast as we ran there.

4. Grace won't talk to no one if she's in a bad mood.

5. None of us can tell no one.

6. When the children went outside, they didn't see no lights in the sky.

7. That old car isn't going nowhere.

8. James didn't tell nothing about his test.



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

Example: I ~~never~~ saw ~~nobody~~.

In the example there are two negative words: *never* and *nobody*. Double negatives are incorrect in formal writing. A sentence should have only one negative. A correct way to write the sentence would be: I never saw anybody.

Correct the double negatives in the sentences below.

Students should rewrite the sentence one of two ways:

1. He can't have no fun when his little brother is around.

He can't have any fun when his little brother is around. He can have no fun when his little brother is around.

2. The dog doesn't bite nobody.

The dog doesn't bite anybody. The dog bites nobody.

3. We never ran nowhere as fast as we ran there.

We never ran anywhere as fast as we ran there. We ran nowhere as fast as we ran there.

4. Grace won't talk to no one if she's in a bad mood.

Grace won't talk to anyone if she's in a bad mood. Grace will talk to no one if she's in a bad mood.

5. None of us can tell no one.

None of us can tell anyone. We can tell no one.

6. When the children went outside, they didn't see no lights in the sky.

When the children went outside, they didn't see any lights in the sky.

When the children went outside, they saw no lights in the sky.

7. That old car isn't going nowhere.

That old car isn't going anywhere. That old car is going nowhere.

8. James didn't tell nothing about his test.

8. James didn't tell anything about his test. James told nothing about his test.

**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*.