

USING NEGATIVES CORRECTLY

There are several words that are used to say “no.” These words are called **negatives**. **Not, none, nobody, nowhere, nothing, and never** are negatives. Contractions such as **can’t, don’t, doesn’t, wouldn’t, won’t, isn’t, and aren’t** are also negatives.

Do not use two negatives when only one “no” word is needed. Using two negatives together (a double negative) shows careless use of the language.

Wrong: I don’t want no ice cream.
Right: I don’t want any ice cream.

Using One Negative. Underline the correct word in parentheses to avoid using two negatives in the sentence.

1. I never heard (nobody, anybody) sing like that.
2. She wouldn’t (never, ever) miss a game.
3. Don’t you want (any, no) soda?
4. Jim doesn’t go (nowhere, anywhere) without his radio.
5. I didn’t hear (anything, nothing).
6. They couldn’t find (no one, anyone) to fix the car.
7. We couldn’t (never, ever) finish in time.
8. Can’t (nobody, anybody) help us?
9. I couldn’t run (no, any) farther.
10. He doesn’t have (no, any) money to spend.
11. It really doesn’t make (no, any) difference.
12. We couldn’t find the dog (nowhere, anywhere).
13. The letters weren’t (never, ever) delivered to them.
14. We looked for the stamps but didn’t find (any, none).
15. I don’t have (no, any) time to waste.