Negative Sentences

Notes
Question and Answer

Notes: Negative Sentences

What is a negative sentence?

Sentences that state something is not true. The word "not" defines a negative sentence and it appears after an auxiliary verb. Auxiliary verbs are to be (am, is, are, was, were); to have (have, has, had); to do (do, does, did).

Examples of negative sentences:

- I am not going to cinema.
- He is not here.
- They are not going to the park.
- She was not drawing on the table.
- We were not hearing you.
- Tom does not have a pet.
- Maria and June do not like to sing.

Informally, the negative sentence a done in the contracted form.

Example:

- do + not = don't
- is + not = isn't
- are + not = aren't
- was + not = wasn't
- were + not = weren't
- does + not =doesn't

Sentences in the negative:

- He isn't here.
- They aren't going to the park.
- She wasn't drawing on the table.
- We weren't hearing you.
- Tom doesn't have a pet.
- Maria and June don't like to sing.

There are other words that can make a statement false.

They are:

no, none, no one, nobody, nothing, neither, nowhere, never.

Some more examples:

- I had no idea she was there.
- None of the children thought to wash the dirty dishes.
- No one is in the library.
- Nobody cared enough to share their food with the hungry child.
- Glen wants nothing to do with David.
- He plays neither cricket nor football.
- We have nowhere to go today.
- I will never eat an insect.

Note:

A double negative sentence combines the negative form of a verb with a negative pronoun. Such a sentence really mean something positive.

Example: I did not do nothing.

This really means: I did do something.

What should you have said if this sentence was really supposed to be negative sentences.

- I did not do anything.

What do you suppose this sentence means?

We don't need no education.

Yes it means:

We need education.

Practice Quiz

- Are you ready? Test how well you understand negative sentences.

Read the following sentences.

Select **FALSE** if the sentence is a NEGATIVE statement and "true" if it is A POSTIVE STATEMENT (affirmative sentence).

June is in the garden

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

June is in the garden.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

I don't know what to do?

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

I don't know what to do?

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement   or   **Negative Statement**

She is not happy with her grades.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

She is not happy with her grades.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

I found my journal.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

I found my journal.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

She is not going to the gym.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

She is not going to the gym.

TRUE or FALSE?

Affirmative Statement or **Negative Statement**

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I can see clearly with my new glasses.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I can see clearly with my new glasses.

I cannot see clearly with my new glasses.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I went to bed by 7 o'clock.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I went to bed by 7 o'clock.

I did not go to bed at 7 o'clock.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I was happy to go to the beach.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I was happy to go to the beach.

I was not happy to go to the beach.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

The baby is sleeping.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

The baby is sleeping.

The baby is not sleeping.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I saw everyone at the park.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I saw everyone at the park.

I did not see anyone at the park.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

Everyone wanted macaroni pie.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

Everyone wanted macaroni pie.

No one wanted macaroni pie.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I will always speak with them.

Change the sentence to a negative sentence.

I will always speak with them.

I will never speak with them.

What does "We don't need no thought control" means?

A. We need no thought control.

B. We don't need to be controlled.

C. We need thought control

D. We don't need thought control.

E. All of the above

What does "We don't need no thought control" means?

A. ~~We need no thought control.~~

B. ~~We don't need to be controlled.~~

C. We need thought control

D. ~~We don't need thought control.~~

E. ~~All of the above~~

Match the following contractions.

can not	don't
is not	aren't
are not	can't
was not	isn't
do not	wasn't

Match the following contractions.

can not   don't

is not   aren't

are not   can't

was not   isn't

do not   wasn't