

## Lesson 6: Negatives and Middle Words

In Lesson 1, we said that X-Words were important for five reasons

- 1) they are used to ask questions,
- 2) **they are used to make negative statements**
- 3) they are used to find the subject of a sentence
- 4) they are used to change tense
- 5) they are used to add meaning

Let's look at number 2.

You have learned that some sentences have X-Words that you can see and some (V/XO, V/XS, V/XD) do not. In this lesson you will learn how to make negative statements in sentences with a visible X-Word.

The rule is simple.

Rule: to change an affirmative sentence to a negative sentence, just add the word "not" or its contraction "n't" to the X-Word.

X-Word + not = negative.

Here are two examples:

X
X  
 It's raining outside. → It's **not** raining outside.  
X
X  
 The doctor **can** see you now. → The doctor **can not** see you now.

**Contractions of not.** In everyday speech, we usually contract *not*. Here is a guide.

haven't	don't	* <i>am not</i>	*can't	couldn't	*must not
hasn't	doesn't	isn't	shall→	shouldn't	*might not
hadn't	didn't	aren't	shan't	wouldn't	*may not
		wasn't	will→ won't		
		weren't			
		* <b>am not</b> doesn't contract. We usually contract the <b>I am</b> → I'm not	* <b>can't</b> , <b>cannot</b> , and <b>can not</b> are all OK		*contractions are OK but not common in American English.



### "N" words

We have been talking about *not*. There are other words used to make negatives in English, but they are much less common. Most of the time, we use *not*.

"N" words not never no none
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<b>Rule:</b> Never use more than one "N" word in a sentence. This is called a "double negative" .
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### Not so simple

I said that the rule for making negatives in sentences with visible X-Words is simple. It is. Correcting bad habits with *not* and other "N" words is not simple.

Here are some examples of common mistakes:

#### Incorrect:

I no can come to class next week.

He can't never get it right.

You should no eat that.

He doesn't live here no more.

I can't find my pen nowhere.

#### Correct:

I **can't come** to class next week.

He **can't ever** get it right.

You should **not** eat that.

He **doesn't** live here **anymore**.

I **can't** find my pen **anywhere**.

Learn these pairs. We will practice with them in Exercise 2.

no → any

none → any

never → ever

no more → anymore

nowhere → anywhere

no place → anyplace

no one → anyone

nobody → anybody

nothing → anything

## Middle Words

The “N” words *not* and *never* come between the X-Word and the Main Verb. There are other words (adverbs) that can come in this sector. Because they can come in the middle of the verb phrase, we call them **Middle Words**.

A middle word is a word that goes in the **middle** of an X-Word and a verb.. Look at these examples. In each case the M-word is in *italics*.

Example 1: <sup>\*</sup> <sup>X</sup> <sup>M</sup> <sup>d-t-n</sup>  
 I have *always* wanted to visit Spain.

Example 2: <sup>\*</sup> <sup>X</sup> <sup>M</sup> <sup>Ving</sup>  
 She is *probably* studying in the library.

Example 3: <sup>\*</sup> <sup>X</sup> <sup>M</sup> <sup>Ving</sup>  
 I was *just* calling to say that I love you.

Here is a list of common M-words. This list is not complete, of course, but it does give some of the more common ones. You should remember, however, that it is better to know the rule than it is to try to memorize a list of words. You should also remember that *these words may appear in other places* in a sentence in English. They are only Middle Words when they follow this rule.

★ If a word comes between an x and a verb, call it a Middle word.

### Some words commonly used as Middle words

<b>not</b>	<b>always</b>	<b>really</b>	<b>almost</b>
<b>never</b>	often	<b>just</b>	<b>also</b>
<b>ever</b>	usually	only	completely
hardly ever	sometimes		probably
	seldom		still

The order is the same even if there is no main verb or no visible X-Word.

SUBJECT	X-WORD	MW	MAIN VERB	EVERYTHING ELSE
She	is	always		nice.
He		always	walks	to school.
We	have	always	liked	grammar.





**Lesson 6 Exercise 3**

Directions: Review the rules and correct these sentences.

1. The school no is closed on Monday.
2. I can't no come to class tomorrow, teacher.
3. I have no received my assignment.

**Lesson 6 Exercise 4**

Write the rules:

1. Rule: to make a negative statement

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2. Rule for "n" words:

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3. Word order

On the lines below, write these sentence elements in the correct order.

- 1) does / Susan's little boy / to go to bed / want / n't
- 2) raining / it / n't / yet / is
- 3) That clock / not / be / correct / might
- 4) mine / is / this umbrella / n't

	Subject	X-Word	not/n't- Middle Words	Main Verb	Everything else
1					
2					
3					
4					



## Lesson 6 Exercise 5

### A Healthy Man

Write the sentence on the line. Insert the MW . Box the Subject and mark the X-Word, Middle Word, and Main Verb.

Example:

<sup>\*</sup> X M <sup>d-t-n</sup>  
Joe has always been a very healthy man.

1. (usually) My friend Joe eats fresh vegetables and fruits.

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2. (hardly ever) He drinks alcohol or coffee.

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3. (never) Joe has smoked.

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4. (always) He gets plenty of sleep.

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5. (almost always) Joe is conscious of his health.

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