**Double Negatives**

**[](http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fkiki2point0.files.wordpress.com%2F2013%2F07%2Fla_double_negative.gif&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fkikialewis.com%2F2013%2F07%2F17%2Fthe-problem-with-mocking-uneducated-backwoods-hillbillies%2F&h=491&w=648&tbnid=44cirTP8LWvevM%3A&zoom=1&q=double%20negatives&docid=Ev2V6PczvXnMXM&ei=7XZaU4SHLuud7gajnYCQCA&tbm=isch&ved=0CGUQMygOMA4&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=5849&page=1&start=0&ndsp=44)**

Fine in a Maths exam but you should never use double negatives in your speech or writing!

**‘Negative’** words include: No, hardly, never, not, none, barely, nothing, nobody, nothing, can’t, won’t, wasn’t and haven’t.

People often use double negatives when using contractions (e.g. *didn’t* instead of *did not*) as the **mistake** is often less noticeable.

I did**n’t** do **none.**

I did **not** do **none.**

The double negative is more obvious here.

Common Mistake: I **can’t** find **no** information.

🗸Standard English: I **can’t** find **any** information.

Common Mistake: “I **didn’t** do **nothing**, Sir.”

🗸Standard English: “I **didn’t** do **anything**, Sir.”

Common Mistake: “There **wasn’t nobody** in.”

What do these sentences have in common?

🗸Standard English: There **wasn’t anybody** in.”

**Complete the following sentences with…**

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**…no, any, nothing or anything.**

Tip: Look for the negative words. They may be contractions of ‘not’.

1. I haven’t got \_\_\_\_ time to meet you on Saturday.
2. I don’t want \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ else to eat, thank you.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ else matters when I’m in revision mode!
4. There can’t be \_\_\_\_ talking as there is an exam next door.
5. We are unlikely to see \_\_\_\_ action from these seats.
6. She didn’t need \_\_\_\_\_ help.
7. He didn’t get \_\_\_\_ consequences last term.
8. Don’t worry about \_\_\_\_\_. It will all be OK in the end.
9. They haven’t got \_\_\_\_\_\_ to do.
10. “I don’t want \_\_\_\_ trouble,” warned the teacher.

**Answers**: 1. any 2. anything 3.Nothing 4. any 5. any 6. any 7. any 8. anything

9. anything 10. any.

**Extension Task: Think of your own sentences to test the class!**

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