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| **Lesson Title:** Avoiding Double Negatives | | **Theme:** Grammar | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-147 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Identify and correct double negatives.  2. Write letters and essays without double negatives. | | | |

**Overview**

A **double negative** is a phrase or sentence that has two negative words or their compounds (examples: no, not, never or none). Double negatives create confusion. When you write a sentence containing two negatives, the double negative makes your sentence mean the opposite. When a sentence has a double negative, you should correct it by replacing one of the negatives with a positive. For example:

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| **Negatives** | **Positives** |
| never | ever, always |
| nothing | something, anything |
| nowhere | somewhere, anywhere |
| nobody | somebody, anybody |
| neither | either |

Here are some example sentences:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Incorrect (with double negative)** | **Correct (without double negative)** |
| We have not done nothing wrong. | * We have not done anything wrong. * We have done nothing wrong. |
| They were not nowhere near the accident. | * They were not anywhere near the accident. * They were nowhere near the accident. |

Remember, many negatives are often shortened into **contractions**, such as:

* will not – won’t
* have not – haven’t
* could not – couldn’t
* is not – isn’t
* was not – wasn’t
* were not – weren’t
* do not – don’t
* did not – didn’t
* cannot – can’t

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Rewrite the following sentences so that they no longer contain double negatives.

1. She wasn’t never on time for the game.
2. The children haven’t never been to the school before.
3. I saw all the cake, but I didn’t eat none.
4. I told my mother I didn’t do nothing, but she didn’t believe me.
5. My sister couldn’t find her uniform nowhere.

**Activity 2**

Rewrite the following passage and correct any double negatives.

I didn’t want to go to no party. My sister was insisting. She really wanted me to come. The problem was it wasn’t no real party. It was a party for her toys! I am too old for this! I don’t want to do nothing like go to a pretend party anymore. That is for little kids. But then she smiled at me, and I couldn’t refuse her nothing. So, off to the party I went!

**Activity 3**

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. We could see (nothing, anything) in the dark.
2. We didn’t have (any, no) books for our class.
3. There wasn’t (nobody, anybody) at home.
4. I had (no, any) time to fix the sink.
5. We don’t have (nothing, anything) to do today.

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**Activity 1**

1. She wasn’t ever on time for the game.
2. The children have never been to the school before.
3. I saw all the cake, but I didn’t eat any.
4. I told my mother I didn’t do anything, but she didn’t believe me.
5. My sister couldn’t find her uniform anywhere.

**Activity 2**

I didn’t want to go to **a** party. My sister was insisting. She really wanted me to come. The problem was it wasn’t **a** real party. It was a party for her toys! I am too old for this! I don’t want to do anything like go to a pretend party anymore. That is for little kids. But then she smiled at me, and I could refuse her nothing. So, off to the party I went!

**Activity 3**

1. nothing 2. any 3. anybody 4. no 5. anything