

Self-Study Guide.  
BOOK: BUILDING TOEIC SKILLS.  
UNIT 3. SHOPPING. .

## Listening Strategy: Negative Words

Negative words tell when something is incorrect or untrue. They can make something seem less than it is. Negative words can also express the feeling of a speaker.

### 1. Listening for Negative Verbs

One of the most common negative words is *not*. It is used with an auxiliary verb such as *be*, *do*, *can*, or *have*. It often combines in a shortened form with auxiliary verbs.

**Ex** I **went** to the store.  
That price **is** correct.  
Those shoes **are** cheap.  
We **can refund** your purchase.  
**Buy** me a gift!

I **did not go** to the store.  
That price **is not** correct.  
Those shoes **aren't** cheap.  
We **can't refund** your purchase.  
**Don't buy** me a gift!

If you hear *not*, then the speaker is telling you that something is not true or that it did not happen.

**Pay special attention to questions with *not* and to the speaker's reply.**

**Ex** M: **Don't** you **have** a few coins?  
W: No, I **don't**.  
Yes, I do.

(The man wants to borrow some coins.)  
(She has no coins.)  
(She has some coins.)

## Practice

### A Listen and check the correct response. Track 20

- |                                                                               |                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. a. _____ I can't afford to go there.<br>b. _____ Yes, I don't.             | 5. a. _____ I haven't seen it.<br>b. _____ I don't use a wallet.                  |
| 2. a. _____ I don't have a dog.<br>b. _____ Pets aren't allowed in the store. | 6. a. _____ He never tells me.<br>b. _____ No, it's not.                          |
| 3. a. _____ It's not mine.<br>b. _____ We don't take credit cards.            | 7. a. _____ No, I wasn't at the meeting.<br>b. _____ No, I didn't have any money. |
| 4. a. _____ I never shop at the mall.<br>b. _____ I'm not at the store.       | 8. a. _____ I can't see one.<br>b. _____ I never go there.                        |

### B Listen and write the missing words. If there are no missing words, leave the space blank.



1. That \_\_\_\_\_ enough money to make that purchase.
2. Jason \_\_\_\_\_ buys cheap products. He loves luxury goods.
3. This is \_\_\_\_\_ my favorite brand.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ at discount stores.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ afford the shipping costs.
6. You \_\_\_\_\_ leave your shopping cart there.
7. The cashier \_\_\_\_\_ very friendly.
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ return this coat without a receipt.

#### Think About

- Do you hear the word *not*?
- Do you hear a negative pronoun or adverb?

## 2. Negative Pronouns

When you are listening, check for negative pronouns. Negative pronouns include *no*, *no one*, *nobody*, *nothing*, and *neither*.

- Ex** **No** credit cards are accepted here.  
**No one** bought the new brand of jeans.  
**None** of her friends likes to go shopping.  
**Neither** of my parents will take me to the mall.

## NO vs NONE

► **NO**: IS AN ARTICLE - it goes before a noun.

- There is **no** sugar = there isn't any sugar
- I have **no** car = I don't have a car
- I have **no** problems = I don't have any problems

## NO and NONE

**NONE** *of* (something)

There are **no**  
batteries in  
the drawer.



I found 3  
batteries but  
**none of** them  
work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgiVZfIH7TENC>

### COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING (NO or NONE)

1. She wanted some sugar but there was \_\_\_\_\_ in the house.
  2. Is there any tea left? No, \_\_\_\_\_ at all.
  3. There was \_\_\_\_\_ end to our troubles.
  4. They had \_\_\_\_\_ food.
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ of them has come back yet.
  6. How many tickets have you got? \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. \_\_\_\_\_ words can describe the scene.
  8. We have \_\_\_\_\_ kids.
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## Neither- nor.

*Neither* allows us to make a negative statement about two people or things at the same time. *Neither* goes before singular countable nouns. We can use *neither* as a conjunction with *nor*. It connects two or more negative alternatives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PagP47uJcsU>

### COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING (NEITHER - NOR)



1. Janet didn't like Liz Taylor's performance. \_\_\_\_\_ did I.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Janet \_\_\_\_\_ I knew if the second act would be better.  
But we decided to stay on.
3. Coming home that night, we waited for hours as we could find  
\_\_\_\_\_ a taxi \_\_\_\_\_ a bus.
4. The book was not very successful, \_\_\_\_\_ was it well-publicized.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Brian \_\_\_\_\_ his wife mentioned anything about moving  
house.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Italy \_\_\_\_\_ France got to the quarter finals last year.

### 3. Negative Adverbs

Is the word *barely*, *never*, or *hardly* in the sentence? Although the verb may be positive, these words suggest that the speaker cannot do or has difficulty in doing something.

- Ex** I can **hardly** read this label. (The speaker can't read the label easily.)  
I **never** forget my reusable bags. (The speaker does not forget her bags.)
- M: Do you like to buy luxury goods?  
W: I can **barely** afford the things I need. (The woman does not have much money.  
Therefore, she cannot buy luxury goods.)