Life

Upper Intermediate Unit 6a

Negative forms

Presentation

Negative statements with *think*, *believe*, *suppose*, *imagine* and *want*:

It's more common to make the first verb in the sentence negative, not the second: *I **don't think** it's a good idea.*

Negative forms of *have to* and *must*:

Have to and *must* have a similar meaning in positive sentences. However, *mustn't* and *not have to* have completely different meanings.

*You **mustn't** take so many clothes.* (= Don't do it!)

*You **don't have to** take any sun screen.* (= You can if you want, but it isn't necessary.)

Negative short answers with *hope, expect, believe, guess, suppose* and *be afraid*:

Add *not* after the verb:

*'Is it going to be very cold?' 'I **hope not**.'*

The affirmative equivalent is *so*, e.g. *I'm afraid so.*

Negative imperatives:

Use *don't* to make an imperative negative. It is the same for one person or more than one: ***Don't forget** your passport.*

Negative infinitive:

Add *not* before *to* to make an infinitive with *to* negative: *We both agreed **not to** pack much.*

Negative suggestions:

Use *let's not* + infinitive to make a negative suggestion: ***Let's not take** any sun screen.*

Negative words: *neither, none, no, not ... either*

We use *no* directly before a plural or uncountable noun in a sentence with a positive verb: ***There are no** tourists at this time of year.*

We can't use *no* if there is an article or possessive adjective before the noun. Use *none of* instead: ***None of the** hotels had empty rooms.*

None is a pronoun. We use it in place of a noun to say 'not one' or 'not any': *There were six hotels when I was a child. There are **none** now.*

We use *neither* + auxiliary verb + pronoun to agree with a negative statement. It means 'also not'.

'I don't like hot weather.' 'Neither do I.'

The affirmative equivalent is *so* (*So do I*).

We can also use pronoun + *neither* with the same meaning.

'I don't like this place.' 'Me neither.'

The affirmative equivalent is *too* (*Me too*).

We also use *not ... either* with the same meaning.

'I don't feel like going out.' 'I don't either.'

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Exercises

1 Complete the sentences with the words.

imagine	decided	forget	hope	mustn't	neither	none of	not

1 I don't imagine that we'll hear from them again.
2 You ..... take liquids on the plane. It's against the law.
3 A: Is Geoff coming too?
B: I ..... not! We don't get on.
4 Don't ..... to call me when you get there so I know you arrived safely.
5 They ..... not to go by train. They hired a car instead.
6 Let's ..... stay out so late tonight. I'm tired.
7 ..... us like holidays on hot beaches.
8 A: I like this country but the food is very hot. I can't eat it.
B: ..... can I.

2 Choose the correct options.

1 This place used to be famous for its hotels. But now there are *no / none* left.
2 A: I really don't like the way people speak to you in this hotel.
B: *Me neither. / Me either.*
3 A: Is there a bank near here? I need to change some money.
B: I'm afraid *not / so.*
4 I *suppose / don't suppose* it's a good idea to stay up late because our flight leaves very early.
5 A: We don't want to go away this year on holiday.
B: We don't *either / neither.*
6 We planned *to spend / not to spend* too much time on buses, but we did.

3 Complete the second sentence so it has the same meaning as the first.

1 I think it's a bad idea.
don't I don't think it's a good idea.
2 It's against the rules to carry over 25kg on the plane.
mustn't You ..... over 25kg on the plane.
3 You can bring diving gear but you won't need it.
have to You ..... diving gear.
4 Remember to check in 24 hours before your flight.
forget ..... 24 hours before your flight.
5 We all said that we didn't want to meet at the same restaurant as last time.
agreed not We ..... at the same restaurant as last time.
6 I don't think we should go back to the city.
let's ..... to the city.
7 Me neither.
do Neither .....
8 In my opinion the answer is wrong.
believe ..... the answer is right.

4 Imagine you are planning a holiday with some friends. Complete these sentences about your plans.

1 Me and my friends have agreed not to .....
2 None of my friends .....
3 I don't imagine .....
4 We hope not to .....

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