

## But for negation

**Activity 1: Complete the following sentences using the structure:**

**Subject + verb (past simple or past continuous) + first negation + but + second negation.**

She couldn't stop crying, but she \_\_\_\_\_ (decide, leave).

They weren't sleeping, but they \_\_\_\_\_ (try, rest).

I didn't understand the problem, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (give up, ask for help).

He wasn't watching TV, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (sit, read a book).

**Activity 2: Unscramble the words to form correct sentences using the structure**

**Subject + verb (past simple) + exception with "but".**

do / could / He / wait / nothing / but.

\_\_\_\_\_

cry / They / laugh / but / couldn't.

\_\_\_\_\_

watch / did / I / TV / but / nothing.

\_\_\_\_\_

She / try / but / fail / couldn't.

**Activity 3: Identify and correct the errors in the following sentences. All sentences should follow the structure**

**Subject + verb (past simple or past continuous) + first negation + but + second negation.**

1. They didn't sing, but they didn't dance too.

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2. He wasn't reading, but he didn't writing either.

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3. We couldn't stay silent, but couldn't speak too.

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4. I didn't want to leave, but didn't want to stay also.

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#### Activity 4: Write your own sentences following these instructions:

Describe a situation in the past using "cannot but".

Example: I couldn't but admire how brave she was.

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Use "did nothing but" to explain something you or someone else did.

Example: He did nothing but complain about the weather.

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Write a sentence with past continuous using double negation with "but."

Example: She wasn't crying, but she wasn't smiling either.

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Write a sentence with past simple and an exception with "but."

Example: We didn't see anyone but our friends at the party.

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