

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

Example: He did nothing but complain about the weather.

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

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

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

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