

(*****BoL***) Negative Sentence Patterns

There are three usual ways to express negation in English: negate the verb in the sentence, negate a noun in the sentence, or use a special negative word.

Negating the verb

To negate the verb in a sentence, add "not" between the auxiliary and the main verb. If the verb does not have an auxiliary, use its emphatic transformation and the auxiliary "do" or "does" Contractions are frequently used in negative sentences. Examples:

Positive	Transformation	Negative
I see it.	I do see it.	I do not see it. I don't see it.
I have it.	I do have it.	I do not have it. I don't have it.
He carries them.	He does carry them.	He does not carry them. He doesn't carry them.
I saw it.	I did see it.	I did not see it. I didn't see it.
He could fix the tire.		He could not fix the tire. He couldn't fix the tire.
I will go to the store.		I will not go to the store. I don't go to the store.
We were going swimming.		We were not going swimming. We weren't going swimming.
It is time to go		It is not time to go. It isn't time to go.

Negating a noun

To negate a noun, add "no" before the noun. examples:

We have time to spare.	We have no time to spare.
I found money in the park.	I found no money in the park.
Photographs were taken Friday.	No photographs were taken Friday.

Using a special negative word

These words are also used to express negation: nobody, nothing, nowhere, none, no one, and neither/nor. Examples:

Nobody found Angela's wallet.
There was nothing left in the jar.
Nowhere else is more beautiful than this valley.
None of the common names suited the puppy.
No one knew how to turn off the generator
Neither Allen nor Bill told Frankie the score.