

The Double Negative

When two negative words are used in the same sentence, it is called a **double negative**. Avoid double negatives, since one negative word is needed to express a negative idea. Additionally, a double negative can be confusing to the reader.

DIRECTIONS: Choose the sentence from each pair that is written correctly.

- _____ 1. A. That bear isn't not my sister's.
B. That bear isn't my sister's.

- _____ 2. A. Hank seldom gets no presents.
B. Hank seldom gets presents.



- _____ 3. A. Mark hasn't never heard of that.
B. Mark hasn't ever heard of that.

- _____ 4. A. Nobody in my class walks to school.
B. Not nobody in my class walks to school.

- _____ 5. A. He hasn't no reason to be late.
B. He hasn't any reason to be late.

- _____ 6. A. I wouldn't give that to him; Jonah is irresponsible.
B. I wouldn't give that to him; Jonah isn't irresponsible.

- _____ 7. A. Hardly any of these questions make sense.
B. Hardly none of these questions make sense.