

Language Tips

Encourage your child to use accurate grammar and complete sentences throughout the day.

Definition:

Negative - a word that indicates no, expresses refusal or denial, or negates a statement. Using a **negative** word in a sentence usually means that something will not happen or someone will not do something.

Examples:

Many **negative** words begin with the letter “n”

no not nothing never no one none
nowhere neither...nor

Other **negatives** include, but are not limited to
cannot (can't) hardly

only scarcely barely

Some words beginning with **un-** or **in-**
unknown **unrealistic**

insignificant

Sometimes we combine the negative word “not” with a verb to make contractions

is not/**isn't** did not/**didn't** was not/**wasn't** will not/**won't**

Negative words may follow a copula or “to be” verb such as am, is, are, was, or were

I am **not** sleepy. This school is **hardly** new. It was **nowhere** to be found.

Negative words come after a helping verb and before the main verb.

Ray is **not** coming home. I am **never** going by myself. They are **not** walking home.