

Double negatives occur when two forms of negation are present in the same clause. That's like having two **red lights** in a traffic light, but no **green light**. Consider the following example:

Double Negative: I don't want **no**thing.

1. The best way to correct a double negative is to **replace the second form of negation** with the word **any**.

Double Negative: I can't get **no** satisfaction.

Correction: I can't get **any** satisfaction.

1. To correct a double negative if the sentence includes the words **HARDLY**, **SCARCELY**, or **RARELY** you **MUST KEEP hardly, scarcely, or rarely** and **replace the other form of negation**:

Double Negative: I can't **hardly** pay my bills. They can't **scarcely** hear the teacher.

Correction: I can **hardly** pay my bills. They can **scarcely** hear the teacher.

Double Negatives Errors – Make the corrections.
Strategy: circle both negatives / change one.

1. Sal doesn't hardly do his homework.
2. Katra hasn't got no money for the bus.
3. The supervisor has never needed no help.
4. She wasn't scarcely finished.
5. Bertha didn't have no time to go shopping.
6. She never says nothing in class.
7. The students weren't hardly ready for the project.
8. The new student didn't know nobody at the school.
9. I didn't do nothing wrong.
10. Marcus couldn't find no books about grammar.

Corrections:

1. Sal ~~doesn't~~ hardly ~~do~~ **does** his homework.
2. Katra hasn't got ~~no~~ **any** money for the bus.
3. The supervisor has never needed ~~no~~ **any** help.
4. She ~~wasn't~~ **was** scarcely finished.
5. Bertha didn't have ~~no~~ **any** time to go shopping.
6. She never says ~~nothing~~ **anything** in class.
7. The students ~~weren't~~ **were** hardly ready for the project.
8. The new student didn't know ~~nobody~~ **anybody** at the school.
9. I didn't do ~~nothing~~ **anything** wrong.
10. Marcus couldn't find ~~no~~ **any** books about grammar.