



University of Tikrit
College of Arts
English Department

Subject

"Oxford Practice Grammar"

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Unit four

Negatives & Questions

Negatives:

negative sentences are created by placing an auxiliary verb and not before the main verb. The auxiliary verb **depends on the tense we are using**. We use do + not in simple tenses, be + not in progressive tenses, have + not in perfect tenses, and have + be + not in perfect progressive tenses.

- We speak English. → We do not speak English.
- He speaks English. → He does not speak English.
- She is not looking for a job.
- **We haven't made a chicken soup.**

In sentences with infinitives and gerunds, we put (not) before the infinitives and gerunds :

- He pretended not to see us.
- I enjoyed not going to school for a few days.

4-1

Question

W-h + aux. + S + main verb + C.?

When we use (what) or (who) as the subject, we usually put the main verb (not do) after them.

- What is making that noise?

- Who used my computer?
- Whose phone is ringing?

- Why \ you \ stand \ at the door \ now?
 - Why are you standing at the door now?

4-2 Negative questions and question tags:

4-2-1 Negative questions:

It means making questions in any tense and putting (not) after aux. the negative question also called (yes, no question) usually begins with the negative form of (be, do, have, or modal):

- Those books are mine
 - Are those books mine? (positive question)
 - Aren't those books mine? (Negative question)

- He speaks English.
 - Does he speak English? (Positive question)
 - Doesn't he speak English? (**Negative question**)

- **We can use negative (yes\no) questions to ask for confirmation:**
 - Haven't we already paid for the tickets?

- **We can use negative (yes\no) questions to express surprise:**
 - Haven't you ever seen snow?

- **Questions beginning with (why don't you...?) or (why not .. ?) are used for offers or suggestions:**
 - Why don't you come with us? (offers)

- Why not go to the cinema instead of school? (suggestion)

4-2-2 Questions Tags:

Question tags (or tag questions) are short forms of questions added after statements.

- She is late, Isn't she?
 - Yes, she is. - no, she isn't.
- They are having fun, aren't they? – yes, they are. -No, they aren't.
- I can go, can't I? – yes, you can. - No, you can't.

Tag questions are short forms of questions added after statements.

Positive statement + Negative tag

- He is very clever, Isn't he?
- He lost his book, didn't he?
- I can win, can't I?

Negative statement + Positive tag

- They aren't having fun, are they?
- I can't go, can I?

4-2-3 Irregular Questions Tag

➤ He is late, isn't he?

➤ I am late, aren't I?

➤ I am not late, am I?

- **Suggestion: (use shall we) (let's = shall we)**

➤ Let's eat out tonight, shall we?

➤ Let's have fun, shall we?

- **Command \ imperative – authority position:**

➤ Clean your room, will you?

➤ Prepare the report, will you?

- **Hidden Negation:**

➤ Ali never comes early, does he?

➤ They rarely visit their relative, don't they?

4-3 Negative words

(No, None, Nobody, No one, and Nothing)

Usually, we use negative verbs (wasn't, haven't) to express negative concepts, but also we can use positive verbs with negative words such as (no, none, nobody, no one, nothing)

- There wasn't anything to eat in the hotel.

We can use (No one, nobody) as a subject with positive verbs:

➤ No one came.

➤ No one complained.

➤ Nobody told us.

- No one will attend the meeting.

No+ Noun

- **No** + plural noun = plural verb
- **No** + singular noun = singular verb
- **None** instead **nouns**

- No men were there. (plural noun + plural verb)
- No man was there. (singular noun + singular verb)
- I have no free time these days.
- Didn't you bring any money?
 - I have no money.
 - I have none. (none refers to money)

No+ Noun (money, problem, teacher)

We can use No with (singular, and plural) nouns or with (gerund) to emphasize the negative.

- Cameras aren't permitted inside the court
 - No cameras are permitted inside the court.

- No smoking
 - No parking
 - No skateboards
- } gerund

We can use (no, not any) with a comparative adjective and adverbs :

- These seats are **no better** than the others
 - These seats aren't any better than the others.
 - Good – better – best
 - Big – bigger – biggest

None + of

- **None of** + plural noun = singular verb
 - **None of** + Plural Pronouns
 - None of + determiners (the, those)
- } = singular verb
-
- None of + plural verb □ □ → formal situation

- None of my friends was there.
- None of them understood it.
 - No + one = none\ nobody.

- None of the equipment was delivered.
- None of the lights is working.
 - Nothing: this phrase comes after the verb.
 - None + of
 - No one, Nobody should come at the beginning of the sentence.
- There is no one in the classroom.

4-4 Inversion after negative words and phrases:

inversion means the opposite of anything instead of something else, in the natural composition of the sentence starts with the subject (S. + V.) as:

➤ I sleep.

But in some cases (negative words), the verb comes before the subject and this is called inversion, we can also invert the subject and verb in a sentence that uses a negative adverb (never, only, neither..so,). We do this when the negative adverb is in the initial position of the sentence. we don't usually use this in spoken English is more typically used in written English because it's a more formal structure, inversion is used in formal or literary English, but can also be used in informal replies, after (neither, nor, and no way):

➤ I don't understand

– Neither do I.

We use inversion after negative adverbs when they are placed in the front position for emphasis, we put the subject after aux. (be, do, have) or a modal (will, shall .. etc.) cases are:

1- Never :

➤ I can sleep early.

– Never can I sleep early.

➤ I have never seen such clear, beautiful water.

– Never have I seen such beautiful water.

2- Nowhere

➤ They couldn't find a bottle opener anywhere

3– No, Not

Also, we use inversion after the negative phrase with (not, no) in front position:

- You shouldn't go under any circumstance
 - Under no circumstance should you go.

- Mark is not only single, but he is also rich.
 - Not only is Mark single, but he is also rich.

4– Only:

- At home, I will sleep.
 - At home, only will I sleep.

5– Neither .. so:

- I like fish
 - So do I.

- I don't like fish.
 - Neither do I.