

# 40 Negative statements

## 1 Use

### Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was a famous explorer. At one time people believed that he had 'discovered' America. We know now this **isn't** true. Columbus **was not** the first European to travel to the New World. We **don't** know who was, but the Vikings had sailed there around the year 1000, and probably others before them. In 1492 Columbus sailed to San Salvador in the Bahamas and to other islands, but he never reached the mainland of North America. He actually thought he was in Asia. He certainly **didn't** discover America.

We often use a negative statement to correct a mistaken idea, such as the idea that Christopher Columbus discovered America.

## 2 Negative verb forms

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	
be:	are dancing	are not dancing	OR aren't dancing
have:	have seen	have not seen	OR haven't seen
Modal verb:	must stay	must not stay	OR mustn't stay

In a negative statement **not** or **n't** comes after the auxiliary verb. The auxiliary verb is a form of **be**, **have** or a modal verb, e.g. **must**, **can**, **could**.

The girls **are not** dancing. The modem **isn't** working properly.

I **haven't** seen the new Disney film. David **hasn't** got a car.

I **mustn't** stay long. You **can't** turn right here.

I'm **not** feeling very awake today.

We write **n't** without a space before it, e.g. **isn't**, **haven't**.

**Not** or **n't** also comes after the main verb **be**.

The photos **are not** ready yet. It **isn't** very warm in here.

If there is more than one auxiliary verb, we put **not** or **n't** after the first one.

This plate **hasn't** been washed. You **shouldn't** have bothered.

In the Present Simple and Past Simple, we use a form of **do**.

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	
Present Simple:	work	do not work	OR don't work
	looks	does not look	OR doesn't look
Past Simple:	enjoyed	did not enjoy	OR didn't enjoy

I **don't** work on Saturdays. NOT ~~I work not on Saturdays.~~

This part of town **doesn't** look very nice. I'm afraid we **didn't** enjoy the day very much.

The verb after **not** or **n't** does not end in **-s** or **-ed**.

NOT ~~It doesn't looks very nice~~ and NOT ~~We didn't enjoyed the day.~~

## 3 No and not

We can use **no** before a noun or an adjective + noun. The verb is positive.

**No** music is allowed after eleven. OR Music is not allowed after eleven.

There are **no** new houses in the village. OR There aren't any new houses in the village.

We do not use **no** with a verb.

NOT ~~Music is no allowed~~ and NOT ~~The shops are no open.~~

# Practice

## A Use (1)

Read the information in 1 about Christopher Columbus. Then choose a positive or a negative verb.

► Columbus ~~discovered~~/didn't discover America.

- The first European to sail to the New World was/wasn't Columbus.
- Europeans had/hadn't been to the New World before Columbus.
- We know/don't know definitely who first sailed to America.
- Columbus landed/didn't land on the North American mainland.
- People's opinion of Columbus has/hasn't changed over the last 500 years.
- When Columbus landed on San Salvador, he knew/didn't know where he was.
- It is/isn't true that Columbus travelled across the United States.

## B Negative verb forms (1)

Complete the conversation. Put in the negative forms of these words: **can**, **did**, **do**, **does**, **has**, **have**, **is**, **was**, **were**

Rita: Does anyone live in that house next door?

Melanie: Yes, he's called Jake. He's rather strange. He (►) hasn't got a job, but he (1) ..... be short of money because he's just bought a new car.

Rita: The house (2) ..... look very smart.

Melanie: The people who lived there before Jake (3) ..... look after it very well. And they (4) ..... very good at gardening. When Jake bought the house, it had been empty for a while. It (5) ..... very expensive. But he (6) ..... interested in doing anything to it, as you can see.

Rita: Is he a friend?

Melanie: No, we aren't really friends. I (7) ..... know him very well. I say hello when I see him, that's all. I (8) ..... seen him for a while, actually.

## C Negative verb forms (2)

Vicky and Rachel are good friends, but they are very different kinds of people.

Complete the sentences using a negative.

► Vicky gets upset, but Rachel doesn't get upset.

- Vicky gets headaches. Rachel is lucky. She .....
- Rachel can relax. Vicky is different. She .....
- Rachel missed a lecture yesterday, but Vicky .....
- Vicky is a nervous person, but Rachel .....
- Vicky loses things. Rachel .....
- Rachel was a happy child. Vicky .....
- Rachel has decided on a career, but Vicky .....

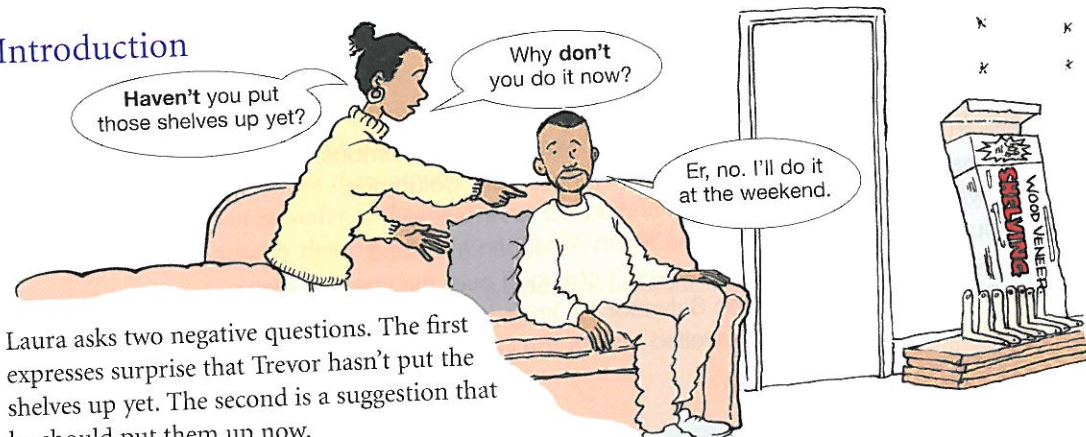
## D No and not (3)

Complete this paragraph from a travel article. Put in **no** or **not**.

Metropolis is (►) not ..... an attractive town. There are (1) ..... parks or gardens in the city centre. I saw (2) ..... interesting buildings, only factories, offices and blocks of flats. The hotels are (3) ..... very good, and there are (4) ..... first-class restaurants. (5) ..... tourists visit Metropolis, and I certainly do (6) ..... want to go there again.

# 41 Negative questions

## 1 Introduction



Laura asks two negative questions. The first expresses surprise that Trevor hasn't put the shelves up yet. The second is a suggestion that he should put them up now.

## 2 Form

We make a question negative by putting **n't** after the auxiliary (e.g. have, does).

### POSITIVE

- Have you done it yet?
- What **does** the advert tell you?
- Who **eats** meat?
- What **went** wrong?

### NEGATIVE

- Haven't** you done it yet?
- What **doesn't** the advert tell you?
- Who **doesn't** eat meat?
- What **didn't** go wrong?

## 3 The use of negative yes/no questions

A negative yes/no question often expresses surprise.

- Haven't** you put those shelves up yet? (= I am surprised that you haven't yet.)
- Don't** the children want the ice-cream? (= I am surprised that they don't want it.)

A question with **can't** can be a complaint or an impolite request.

- Can't** you sit down? You're blocking my view.

We can also use a negative yes/no question instead of a statement and a tag.

- Aren't** you a friend of Harriet's? (= You're a friend of Harriet's, aren't you?)

## 4 Yes/no answers

The answer **yes** means that the positive is true, and **no** means that the negative is true.

- Haven't** you repaired the car yet? ~ **Yes**, I did it yesterday.
- Haven't** you repaired the car yet? ~ **No**, sorry. I haven't had time.

## 5 The use of negative wh-questions

We can use **Why don't ...?** for a suggestion.

- Why don't** you put the shelves up now? ~ Well, all right.
- Why don't** we sit on the balcony? ~ Good idea.

We can use **Why didn't ...?** to criticize.

- We'll have to stand now. **Why didn't** you book seats for us? (= You should have booked seats for us.)

We can also use a wh-question to ask for information.

- Who hasn't** checked their baggage in? ~ Oh, I haven't. Sorry.
- What don't** you understand? ~ This paragraph here.

# Practice

## A Negative yes/no questions (2-3)

What would you say in these situations? Use negative yes/no questions.

- You are surprised to learn that Rita doesn't like football.  
*Don't you like football, Rita?*
- You find it surprising that Melanie can't drive.
- It's a surprise that Rachel won't be at the disco.
- You find out that surprisingly Nick hasn't got a television.

## B Negative yes/no questions (2-3)

Complete the conversations using the words in the brackets.

- Mike: I walked home from the town centre. (take / bus)  
Harriet: You mean you walked all the way? *Didn't you take a bus?*
- Vicky: I think I'd like to lie down for a while. (feel / well)  
Rachel: Oh, dear.
- Matthew: I'm looking forward to getting the photos you've sent. (arrive / yet)  
Richard: I sent them a week ago.
- David: I saw Rita, but she walked straight past me. (say / hello)  
Melanie: Without speaking to you?
- Andrew: I never sit by the pool. I hate water. (swim)  
Emma: Really?

## C Yes/no answers (4)

Put in **yes** or **no**.

- Didn't Mike stop and give you a lift? ~ **No**, he didn't, but maybe he didn't see me.
- Aren't you tired after working all day? ~ \_\_\_\_\_, I feel fine.
- Didn't you write the number down? ~ \_\_\_\_\_, but I've lost the piece of paper.
- Haven't you got an umbrella? ~ \_\_\_\_\_, it's here in my bag.
- Couldn't you get in to the opera? ~ \_\_\_\_\_, we didn't have tickets.

## D Why not? (2, 5)

Reporter Kitty Beamish is investigating an accident at the Magic World theme park. A ride crashed, and people were injured. This is what Kitty has found out.

- The people on the ride didn't get enough help.
- The staff didn't know what to do.
- They couldn't stop the ride.
- They aren't trained in first aid.
- The ambulance wasn't called immediately.
- The doctor didn't have a mobile phone.

What questions beginning with **why** does Kitty ask?

- Why didn't the people on the ride get enough help?*
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

# 42 Question tags, e.g. isn't it?

## 1 Use

- Melanie: *It's a lovely day, **isn't it?***  
 Harriet: *Beautiful. We're having a glorious summer, **aren't we?***  
 Melanie: *You haven't heard a forecast for the weekend, **have you?***  
 Harriet: *No, I haven't, but I think it's going to stay sunny.*

A question tag is a short question added on to a statement. When a tag is spoken, the voice can go down or up.

### FALLING

*It's a lovely day, **isn't it?***

With a falling intonation, the speaker thinks the statement is true. Melanie knows that it is a lovely day, and she is inviting Harriet to continue the conversation. The tag is not really a question.

### RISING

*You haven't heard a forecast, **have you?***

With a rising intonation, the speaker is less sure. Melanie doesn't know if Harriet has heard a weather forecast or not. The tag is more like a real question.

## 2 Form

### POSITIVE STATEMENT + NEGATIVE TAG

*It is very warm, **isn't it?***

A negative tag is an auxiliary verb + n't + pronoun.

- You've played before, **haven't you?***  
*The children can swim, **can't they?***  
*It'll be dark soon, **won't it?***  
*There was a mistake, **wasn't there?***

### NEGATIVE STATEMENT + POSITIVE TAG

*It **isn't** very warm, **is it?***

A positive tag is an auxiliary verb + pronoun.

- David hasn't got a car, **has he?***  
*I shouldn't laugh, **should I?***  
*You aren't ill, **are you?***  
*The answer wasn't right, **was it?***

The pronoun (you, he, etc.) refers to the subject of the sentence, e.g. you, David.

In the Present Simple and Past Simple we use a form of do.

- You live near here, **don't you?***  
*This coat looks nice, **doesn't it?***  
*I turned right, **didn't I?***

- We don't have to pay, **do we?***  
*The shower doesn't work, **does it?***  
*Your horse didn't win, **did it?***

The answer yes means that the positive is true, and no means that the negative is true.  
 Mark works for Zedco, doesn't he? ~ Yes, he does. (He works for Zedco.)  
 Melanie doesn't eat meat, does she? ~ Yes, I think she does. (She eats meat.)  
 Claire is married, isn't she? ~ No, of course she isn't. (She isn't married.)  
 Andrew hasn't got many friends, has he? ~ No. (He hasn't got many friends.)

## 3 Requests and suggestions

After a request with an imperative (e.g. Wait ...), we can use can you? or could you?

*Wait here a moment, **can you?** Give me an example, **could you?***

We can also use You couldn't ..., could you? or You haven't ..., have you? for a request.

*You **couldn't** help me, **could you?** You **haven't** got a pound, **have you?***

After Don't ... the tag is will you?: *Don't make any noise, **will you?***

After Let's ... we use shall we?: *Let's sit in the garden, **shall we?***

▷ page 378 Question tags in American English

# Practice

## A Use (1)

Look carefully at each statement and tag. Say if it is more likely to be a comment (with falling intonation) or a question (with rising intonation).

- ▶ This price list is up to date, isn't it? ~ Yes, it is. a question .....  
 1 It was a super show, wasn't it? ~ Great. I really enjoyed it. ....  
 2 These sweaters are nice, aren't they? ~ I like this one. ....  
 3 We've got time for a coffee, haven't we? ~ A quick one maybe. ....  
 4 Let me see, the bus goes at ten past, doesn't it? ~ Quarter past. ....

## B Form (2)

You are at a barbecue. Add tags to help start a friendly conversation.

- ▶ These sausages are delicious, **aren't they?** ~ They certainly are.  
 ▶ You haven't lived here long, **have you?** ~ No, only three months.  
 1 It's quite a big garden, .....? ~ Yes, there's plenty of room.  
 2 There aren't many people here yet, .....? ~ No, but it's still quite early.  
 3 You're Rachel's friend, .....? ~ Yes, I'm Vicky.  
 4 You came in a sports car, .....? ~ That's right.  
 5 These burgers look good, .....? ~ I can't wait to try them.  
 6 We can sit on the grass, .....? ~ I think it's dry enough.  
 7 The weather forecast wasn't very good, .....? ~ No, it wasn't.

## C Form (2)

Complete the conversation. Put in the question tags.

- Emma: You don't really want to go out with me any more, (▶) **do you** .....?  
 Matthew: Of course I do. But I need a bit of time to myself sometimes.  
 Emma: You get plenty of time to yourself, (1) .....?  
 Matthew: Emma, you know what I feel for you. I've told you enough times, (2) .....?  
 Emma: Yes, you have. And you're quite happy, (3) .....?  
 You don't mind, (4) .....? The situation doesn't bother you, (5) .....?  
 Matthew: Why are we arguing? There's nothing to argue about, (6) .....?  
 Emma: You can't ever look at things from my point of view, (7) .....?

## D Requests and suggestions (3)

What would you say in these situations? Write sentences with a question tag. Use the word in brackets.

- ▶ You want to look at a newspaper. Daniel might have one, so ask him. (haven't)  
*You **haven't** got a newspaper, **have you?***  
 1 Suggest to Vicky that you both listen to some music. (Let's)  
 .....  
 2 Warn David not to do anything silly. (Don't)  
 .....  
 3 You need a train timetable. Emma might have one, so ask her. (haven't)  
 .....  
 4 Ask Rachel to pass you the salt. (Pass)  
 .....

# 43 So/Neither do I and I think so

## 1 So and neither

Vicky: I'm hungry.  
 Rachel: **So am I.** I haven't eaten anything all day.  
 Daniel: **Neither have I.** I didn't have time for breakfast.

We use **so** after a positive statement and **neither** after a negative one.  
*I'm hungry.* ~ **So am I.** (= And I'm hungry./I'm hungry, too.)  
*I haven't eaten.* ~ **Neither have I.** (= And I haven't eaten./I haven't eaten either.)

The structure is **so/neither** + an auxiliary + the subject.  
 The auxiliary is a form of **be** or **have** or a modal verb, e.g. **can**.  
*We're really busy at work.* ~ **So are we.**  
*Tom has gone to the match.* ~ **And so has Nick.**  
*David can't drive, and neither can Melanie.*

The subject comes at the end. NOT *We're busy.* ~ **So we are.**  
 In the Present Simple and Past Simple we use a form of **do**.  
*I love old cowboy films.* ~ **So do I.** *This phone doesn't work.* ~ **Neither does this one.**  
*United won, and so did Rangers.*

We can use **nor** instead of **neither**.  
*Emma isn't here tonight. Neither/Nor is Matthew.*

## 2 I think so, etc.

Vicky: It's 'Round the Corner' at half past seven, my favourite soap opera. Are we going to be back in time?  
 Daniel: **I think so.** We haven't got far to go now.  
 Rachel: We might miss the beginning.  
 Vicky: Oh, **I hope not.** I want to know if Bernard really did steal the money.



Here **I think so** means 'I think we'll be back in time', and **I hope not** means 'I hope we don't miss the beginning'.

We can use **so** after **be afraid, believe, expect, guess, hope, suppose** and **think**.

*Do you think you'll get the job?* ~ Well, **I hope so.**  
*Are you going on holiday this year?* ~ Yes, **I expect so.**  
*I don't know for sure if Henry is rich, but I should think so.*

But we cannot use **so** after **know** or **be sure**.

*There's been an accident.* ~ Yes, **I know.** NOT **I know so.**  
*Are you sure you're doing the right thing?* ~ Yes, **I'm sure.** NOT **I'm sure so.**

There are two negative structures.

NEGATIVE + **so**

*Is it raining?* ~ **I don't think so.**  
*Are you going to the concert?* ~ **I don't expect so.**  
 With **expect** and **think**, we normally use the negative and **so**.

POSITIVE + **not**

*Is it raining?* ~ **I hope not.**  
*Have we won a prize?* ~ **I'm afraid not.**  
 With **be afraid, guess** and **hope**, we use the positive and **not**.

We can use **believe** and **suppose** in either structure.

*Will there be any seats left?* ~ **I don't suppose so.** OR **I suppose not.**

# Practice

## A So and neither (1)

Andrew has just met Jessica at a party. They are finding out that they have a lot in common. Put in the structures with **so** and **neither**.

- Andrew: I haven't been to a party for ages.  
 ▶ Jessica: **Neither have I.** I hate crowded rooms.  
 ▶ Andrew: Yes, **so do I.** I'm not a party-goer, really.  
 1 Jessica: No, ..... I can't make conversation.  
 2 Andrew: ..... You know, I'm a quiet sort of person.  
 3 Jessica: And ..... I lead a pretty quiet life.  
 4 Andrew: Well, ..... I haven't got many friends.  
 5 Jessica: ..... And I would really like a good friend.  
 6 Andrew: Oh, .....

## B So and neither (1)

Look at the table and complete the sentences.

	Mark	Claire	Melanie	Emma
Music	✓	✗	✗	✓
Travel	✓	✓	✗	✗
Skiing	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cooking	✗	✗	✓	✓

- ▶ Claire can ski, and **so can Melanie.**  
 ▶ Mark isn't keen on cooking, and **neither is Claire.**  
 1 Melanie doesn't like travelling much, and .....  
 2 Mark has got lots of CDs, and .....  
 3 Emma can't ski, and .....  
 4 Claire isn't a music lover, and .....  
 5 Melanie cooks quite often, and .....  
 6 Mark travels quite a lot, and .....

## C I think so, etc. (2)

Complete these short conversations. Put in structures with **so** or **not** and use the words in brackets.

- ▶ Laura: Does the library open on Saturdays? (think)  
 Trevor: Yes, **I think so.** But I'm not absolutely certain.  
 ▶ Harriet: You can't go out for an evening meal wearing shorts. (guess)  
 Mike: **I guess not.** I'd better put some trousers on.  
 1 Sarah: Will there be a lot of people at the concert tonight? (expect)  
 Mark: ..... There aren't usually very many.  
 2 Daniel: Are you going to apply for the job? (suppose)  
 Vicky: ..... It's the only one available.  
 3 David: Do you think it's going to rain? (hope)  
 Melanie: Well, ..... I'm just about to go out.  
 4 Nick: Will the match take place in this weather? (think)  
 Tom: ..... In fact, I'm sure it won't.  
 5 Claire: Is my coat ready, please? (afraid)  
 Assistant: ..... We're having problems with the machine.