**Mustansiriyah University**

**College of Arts**

**Translation Department**

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR**

**First Year/ Morning Classes**

**Lecture # 6**

**Negative Forms**

**ENGLISH GRAMMAR IN USE**

**R. MURPHY**

**The Negative Form**

The negative form of the verb is shown:

1. For tenses containing an auxiliary , by (not) after the auxiliary, e.g.

I am (not) going, he should (not) go, he has (not) gone, he has (not) been here;

1. For other parts of the verb by the use of (do) and (not) , e.g.

I (do not) go, I (did not )go, (don't) go.

Note: Instead of the (do) form , a negative pronoun or adjective may sometimes be used, e.g.

I know (no) reason for disagreeing.

She knows (nothing) about English.

I met (nobody) today.

The double negative, e.g. I (did not ) meet (nobody), must never be used – though it may be heard in the speech of uneducated people.

**The Interrogative Form**

The interrogative form is shown:

1. In tenses containing an auxiliary by an inversion of the subject and verb, e.g.

Declarative Sentence Interrogative Sentence

You are here. (Are you )here?

He is a teacher. (Is he) a teacher?

He should speak. (should he) speak?

1. In other verbs by the use of (do) with the infinitive:

You go. (do) you go?

He speaks. (does )he speak?

I went. (did) I go?

He wrote. (did) he write?

I write. ((do) I write?

**Note:**

Sometimes (do) is not used if the sentence begins with an interrogative pronoun or adjective, e.g.

(Who reads ) the classics nowadays?

(Whose) dog ran away?

(What helps) you to understand English?

(What book helped) you to understand English?

But:(What) book (do) they use at school?

Negative Forms

Negatives with 'not', negative questions and other negative constructions.

Not

Negative questions

Other Negative constructions

Not

The most common way to make a phrase negative is by using "not."  Generally, "not" follows an auxiliary verb ("to be", "to do") or a modal (shall, must, might, will, etc.) even if the verb adds no meaning to the sentence. When no modal is present or appropriate, we use the verb "to do".

Examples:

Positive phrase:  I want to go home.   Negative phrase:  I do not want to go home.

Positive phrase:  He will pass his exams.   Negative phrase:  He will not pass his exams.

Positive phrase:  They should buy a new house.  Negative phrase: They should not buy a new house.

Positive phrase:  He is Chinese.   Negative phrase:  He is not Chinese.

Contraction of not

After an auxiliary or modal, "not" is frequently contracted, as shown below:

Is not   >  Isn't

Should not  >  Shouldn't

Does not  >  Doesn't

Must not   >  Mustn't

Has not   >  Hasn't

Will not   >   Won't

In an uncontracted form, 'not' emphasizes the negative meaning of the sentence:

"I will not speak to him"  is stronger than   "I won't speak to him."

"She will not do her homework" is stronger than 'She won't do her homework.'

Negative Questions

Negative questions are formed in the same way - by placing "not" after the auxiliary/modal:

Isn't he the man who bought your house?

Why didn't you do your homework?

Haven't you seen this film?

Didn't you enjoy the film?

Contracting 'not' in questions

Contracting not from 'Not' to 'n't' is optional.  However, if we do not contract 'not' it is placed after the subject in the question.

Compare the questions below with the previous examples..

Is he not the man who bought your house?

Why did you not do your homework?

Have you not seen this film?

Did you not enjoy the film?

Other Negative constructions

It is important to remember that the English language does not permit the use of double or triple negatives. Where double negatives are used (in error) they invert the meaning of the statement, so that the intended negative actually becomes positive. In addition to a simple 'not' there are other ways of constructing negative statements in English. When "not" is included, we can use the affirmative forms of adverbs:

No more / not... any more

We have no more time left. We have to go now.

We don't have any more time. We have to go now.

No one / not... anyone

No one was waiting for me at the airport.

There wasn't anyone waiting for me at the airport.

Never / not... ever

I never want to see him again.

I don't ever want to see him again.

Nothing / not... anything

He does nothing at all.

He doesn't do anything at all.

Nowhere / not... anywhere

Where are you going? -- Nowhere.

Where are you going? -- I'm not going anywhere.

Not a single / not... a single

There is not a single reason why I should promote him. He's too lazy.

There isn't a single reason why I should promote him. He's too lazy.

Neither... nor...

'Neither' indicates that the two ideas are linked together. 'Neither' is used with a positive verb and should not have other negative forms preceding it. Neither is generally paired with 'nor' but it is not incorrect to use it with 'or'. Neither can be used to refer to a singular or plural things. In effect, 'neither...nor' means 'not this and not that'.

Neither Richard nor Judy could come to the party.

Neither of them is coming.

Neither of them are Irish.

Neither of my two brothers survived the war. Neither Richard, nor James.

Which of these fur coats is yours? ~ Neither (of them). That one's mine.

When neither is used as a determiner, it is placed before the noun.

On neither side of the road was there anybody to be seen.

Neither team could score a goal. It was a very boring match.