

English Ladder

Teaching Guide

Concept #25: Negatives

A concise classroom guide with lesson flow, teaching cues, and a ready-to-use answer key built around the same English Ladder concept sheet.



Grammar Concepts #25

Understanding Negatives in English

Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Concept #25: Negatives** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

ENGLISH LADDER

Concept #25 ► **Negatives**

Keep your negatives near the beginning of sentences.

- ▼ I always don't eat hamburgers.
I never eat hamburgers.
(Change the positive adverb to a negative.)
- ▼ Most teachers are not frequently late.
Few teachers are frequently late.
(Change the positive adjective to a negative.)
- ▼ Everyone in the class did not fail the exam.
Nobody in the class failed the exam.
(Change the positive pronoun to a negative.)

Sometimes you can simply remove two negatives.

- ▼ Every student is not unhappy.
Every student is happy.
- ▼ I don't infrequently visit Tom.
I frequently visit Tom.

Be sure not to use double negatives.

- I won't tell the secret to nobody. ▼
I won't tell the secret to anybody.

Note the difference between the two types of phrases below.

- Do you like sushi? • (I have no evidence that you do or don't like sushi.)
Can you ski? • (I have no guess about whether or not you can ski.)
- Don't you like sushi? • (I would be surprised if you don't like sushi.)
Can't you ski? • (I would be surprised if you cannot ski.)

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At a Glance

<p>Lesson focus Concept #25: Negatives</p>	<p>Suggested timing 45-60 minutes</p>
<p>Core objective Students explain the target pattern clearly and apply it accurately in controlled practice and discussion.</p>	<p>Materials Student PDF, the concept image, board space, and time for partner checking.</p>

Suggested Lesson Flow

Warm-up	Display the concept image and ask learners to predict the rule behind Concept #25: Negatives before reading the explanation.
Model	Walk through the Core Idea and the sections on Understanding Negatives in English. Pause after each part so students can restate the pattern in plain English.
Guided practice	Project two or three examples from the concept sheet and ask pairs to explain why each choice works, not just what the answer is.
Independent work	Assign the 24 practice items for quiet work, partner checking, and final feedback.
Closure	Ask students to create one new sentence or mini-example of their own that follows the same pattern.



Likely Learner Errors

- Learners may overgeneralize the first pattern they notice. Keep returning to **Understanding Negatives in English** and ask students to explain what changes from one example to the next.
- Long explanations can hide the signal word or structure. Have students underline the exact phrase that tells them which form, pattern, or response is needed.
- If students can choose an answer but cannot explain it, ask them to justify their choice using words taken directly from the concept sheet.

Differentiation and Delivery Notes

- Support: teach one section at a time, then send students back to **the examples** or the practice set so they can apply the same rule immediately.
- Pair work: let students compare answers aloud before you reveal the key. The explanation step is as important as the final answer.
- Extension: ask stronger students to write two fresh examples or a short dialogue that uses the same target language accurately.

Model Language from the Concept Sheet

- Incorrect: I always don't eat hamburgers.
- Correct: I never eat hamburgers....
- Incorrect: Most teachers are not frequently late.
- Correct: Few teachers are frequently late....
- Incorrect: Everyone in the class did not fail the exam.
- Correct: Nobody in the class failed the exam....



Answer Key

Use this key for whole-class feedback or fast marking.

ITEM 01

b) Not everyone likes spinach.

ITEM 02

b) Not all employees attended the meeting.

ITEM 03

b) Not everyone agrees with the decision.

ITEM 04

b) Not everything is lost.

ITEM 05

b) Not all the lights turned on.

ITEM 06

b) She rarely agrees with him.

ITEM 07

a) Most teachers are not frequently late.

ITEM 08

a) Everyone in the class did not fail the exam.

ITEM 09

a) I don't infrequently visit Tom.

ITEM 10

a) Every student is not unhappy.

ITEM 11

a) She isn't unfriendly.

ITEM 12

a) They don't never go out.

ITEM 13

a) He doesn't dislike her.

ITEM 14

b) I won't tell the secret to anybody.



ITEM 15

b) She can't find anything.

ITEM 16

b) They don't need any help.

ITEM 17

b) He hasn't got any money.

ITEM 18

b) We didn't do anything wrong.

ITEM 19

b) Not everything was checked.

ITEM 20

b) Not all the guests arrived on time.

ITEM 21

a) Do you like sushi?

ITEM 22

a) Are you coming to the party?

ITEM 23

a) Do you know him?

ITEM 24

b) I never eat hamburgers.



Feedback Cues

- Item 01: Explanation: "Not everyone likes spinach" is clearer because it specifies that some people do like spinach, but not all. The phrase "Everyone does not like spinach" can be ambiguous, suggesting that no one likes spinach.
- Item 02: Explanation: "Not all employees attended the meeting" clarifies that some employees did attend the meeting, but not all. The phrase "All employees did not attend the meeting" can be interpreted as no employees attended, which is misleading.
- Item 03: Explanation: "Not everyone agrees with the decision" makes it clear that while some people agree, not everyone does. "Everyone doesn't agree with the decision" might imply that no one agrees at all.
- Item 04: Explanation: "Not everything is lost" is clearer because it indicates that some things may be lost, but not all. The phrase "Everything is not lost" can be ambiguous and misleading.
- Item 05: Explanation: "Not all the lights turned on" clarifies that some lights did turn on, but not all. The phrase "All the lights did not turn on" can imply that none of the lights turned on, which is incorrect.
- Item 06: Explanation: "She rarely agrees with him" is clearer because it places the negative element early, indicating that agreement is infrequent. The phrase "She does not always agree with him" is less precise.