

The background features a large, faint watermark of the University of Basrah logo. The logo is circular and contains a central emblem of a palm tree above an open book. The text 'جامعة البصرة' (University of Basrah) is written in Arabic at the bottom, and 'UNIVERSITY OF BASRAH' and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES' are written in English around the bottom edge. The year '1975' is visible on both the left and right sides of the emblem.

**English Grammar  
Fourth Year  
2019-2020**

**Asst. Prof. Mahdi Alasadi**

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# **Week 4: The Simple Sentence**

## **Lecture No. 10: Negation**

# **Non-assertive forms 1**

**There are four types of contexts that require the use of the non-assertive forms:**

**1. The negatives: not, never, no, neither, nor.**

**He is not a friend of mine.**

**I have never been to England.**

**No dogs are permitted here.**

**I am neither happy nor sad today.**

# Non-assertive forms 2

2. The incomplete negatives (words that are negative in meaning but not in form): (seldom, rarely, scarcely, hardly, barely, little, few)

- I seldom get any sleep.
- He hardly searched for a job.
- I can barely speak to any of my colleagues.
- They scarcely seem to care.
- We expect little help from Peter.
- Few MPs only are honest.

## Non-assertive forms 3

3. The implied negatives: fail, stop, prevent, reluctant, hard, difficult.

- I *fail* to see any need for a change of plan.
- The guard has orders to *stop* anyone from entering the building.
- We are *reluctant* to do anything about it.
- It is *hard/difficult* to find anything helpful to say.
- The lifeguards *prevented* us from windsurfing.

# Non-assertive forms 4

## 4. Questions and conditionals:

- If you ever need any advice about computers, consult me.
- Did you see anything?



# Negative Intensification 1

Strengthening of negatives in English can be achieved in different ways:

- a) by means of a number of non-assertive and negative polarity-oriented items, such as in the slightest, in the least, at all, even;
- b) the repetition of the adverb never or the combination never ever;
- c) cases of multiple negation or negative concord intended to heighten a negative meaning);
- d) negative polarity collocations and idiomatic expressions; and
- e) adverbs such as definitely, absolutely, certainly plus a negative (not/no or nothing).

# Negative Intensification 2

There are various ways of giving emotive intensification to a negative:

by any means

in the slightest

in the least

in any way

a bit (informal)

Negative determiners and pronouns are given emphasis by at all, whatever, and whatsoever:

I found nothing at all the matter with him.

You have no excuse whatever.

Never is repeated for emphasis, or else combined with an intensifying phrase such as in (all) my life:



# Negative Intensification 3

- I'll never, never go there again.
- I've never in all my life seen such a crowd.

Never itself may serve for some as an emphatic informal negative in denials:

- I never stayed there last night.

The combinations not one and not a (single) are emphatic alternatives to no as a countable determiner:

- Not a word came from her lips.
- We left not a single bottle behind.

# Alternative Negative Elements 1

Instead of the verb, another element may be negated:

A wise person would not behave this way.

**No wise person would behave this way.**

She is not a fool.

**She is no fool.**

I don't see any clouds.

**I see no clouds.**

Where the negation with an operator is also possible, it has a different meaning because the scope of negation is different. For example:

**Many people did not come to the party.**

Implies the absence of many people, whereas:

**Not many people come to the party.**

Implies the presence of few people.

# Alternative Negative Elements 2

In formal style, the negative element may be moved out of its usual position to the initial position to give it a focal or thematic prominence, in which case subject-operator inversion is often required.

- **Not a word would he say.**
- **Not a moment did she waste.**
- **Not one bottle did we leave behind.**
- **No longer are they staying with us.**
- **Never will I make that mistake again.**