An adjective is a word that modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun.

The most commonly used adjectives are the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*. *A* and *an* are **indefinite articles**. They refer to someone or something in general. Use *a* before a word beginning with a consonant and *an* before a word beginning with a vowel.

*A train ride can be an enjoyable experience.*

*The* is the **definite article**. It points out one specific person, place, thing, or idea.

*The* train arrives in ten minutes.

Many adjectives are formed from common nouns, such as *windy* from *wind*. **Proper adjectives** are formed from proper nouns. Proper adjectives are always capitalized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proper Nouns</th>
<th>Proper Adjectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Canadian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Identifying Adjectives**

Underline all the adjectives in each sentence.

1. The Fosters had a good time when they took a train to Chicago.
2. The excited family climbed aboard the train.
3. They found adjoining seats in an empty row.
4. Brad waited for the other passengers to board.
5. Finally, the train pulled out, and the dark train yard disappeared from view.
6. First, they saw the crowded city they were leaving.
7. But soon, the large city disappeared, and they could see the green countryside.
8. Cindy wondered if there was a Pullman car on the train, where tired people could sleep.
9. Mom and Dad got out the delicious lunches they had packed the night before.
10. Then they looked at the American countryside as they sped over the miles.
11. The long trip passed by quickly, and soon they were seeing the tall buildings of Chicago.
12. That was one trip the family will never forget.
A. Identifying Adjectives and the Words They Modify

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Circle the proper adjectives. Ignore the articles.

1. Sculptures have been made from many materials.
2. The first sculptors used bone and ivory.
3. Greek sculptors carved huge blocks of marble into human forms.
4. The ancient Greeks also made bronze statues.
5. African masks have been sculpted from wood.
6. At Mount Rushmore, a magnificent sculpture of four faces of presidents has been cut into a craggy mountain.
7. One artist piled rocks in a lake and called the arrangement a modern masterpiece.
9. Machine parts are used to form mechanical sculptures.
10. Neon lights have been used to create artworks.

B. Writing Adjectives

Write an adjective to complete each sentence.

Example: On the crowded train, it was hard to find a seat.

1. On a _______________ trip, I like to take a good book to read.
2. At the beginning of a long train trip, I sat down in a _______________ seat.
3. I looked out the window at _______________ scenery.
4. A _______________ toddler sat in the row ahead of me.
5. Her _______________ mother tried to keep the child interested in coloring.
6. But the _______________ girl was more interested in me.
7. She leaned over the seats and stared at me with _______________ eyes.
8. She asked me _______________ questions.
9. The _______________ train ride was filled with conversation.
10. With a _______________ companion, it didn’t seem so long after all.
What Is an Adjective?

A. Writing Adjectives in Sentences
Use the word at the beginning of each item as an adjective in a sentence.

**Example** graceful  *The graceful swans landed in a quiet lake.*

1. mysterious __________________________________________
2. beautiful ___________________________________________
3. thirteen ____________________________________________
4. many ________________________________________________
5. African _____________________________________________
6. snowy ______________________________________________
7. fast _________________________________________________
8. breakable ____________________________________________
9. frightening __________________________________________
10. Asian ______________________________________________

B. Writing a Paragraph Using Adjectives
Imagine that you are taking a long, cross-country train ride. What do you see when you look out the window? How could you describe your fellow passengers? Write a short paragraph about your trip. Use at least five adjectives in your description. Underline the adjectives in your paragraph.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
A **predicate adjective** is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes the verb’s subject. The linking verb connects the predicate adjective with the subject.

- **Fire in the city is dangerous.** (The linking verb is *is*. The predicate adjective is *dangerous*.)

Often, forms of *be* are linking verbs, as in the above example. However, predicate adjectives can also follow other linking verbs such as *taste, smell, feel, look, become,* and *seem*.

- **Such a disaster seemed impossible.** (The linking verb is *seemed*. The predicate adjective is *impossible*.)

**Identifying Predicate Adjectives**

Underline the predicate adjective in each sentence. If the sentence has no predicate adjective, write **None** on the line to the right.

1. In 1871, the city of Chicago was already huge. ___________
2. Over 350,000 residents felt proud of their beautiful city. ___________
3. Most of the buildings in the city were wooden. ___________
4. The hundreds of miles of sidewalk were wooden too. ___________
5. But the beautiful city became deadly on the evening of October 8. ___________
6. On that night, someone was careless. ___________
7. How the fire started is still mysterious. ___________
8. Soon, however, whole city blocks were burning. ___________
9. The waterworks soon caught fire; without water, the firefighters were helpless. ___________
10. The fire burned for more than a full day. ___________
11. The blaze had caused about $200,000 in damages. ___________
12. After the fire, about 100,000 people were homeless. ___________
13. More people had lost everything they owned. ___________
14. The people of Chicago were courageous. ___________
15. The new Chicago they built was even better than the old one. ___________
A. Identifying Predicate Adjectives and the Words They Modify
Underline the predicate adjective in each of the following sentences. Write the word it modifies on the line to the right.

1. The forest appeared silver in the moonlight. ________________
2. I felt uncomfortable on the first day of school. ________________
3. As we approach, the volcano seems gigantic. ________________
4. The woods smell fresh in springtime. ________________
5. The voice on the phone sounded quite strange. ________________
6. The weather has turned cold this week. ________________
7. Some timbers of the old barn have become weathered. ________________
8. In this rain, the path seems even longer than usual. ________________
9. Isn’t this room cozy? ________________
10. What smells so delicious? ________________

B. Writing Predicate Adjectives
Complete each sentence with a predicate adjective. Write the predicate adjective on the line.

1. The Great Chicago fire must have been _________________.
2. People felt ________________ when they saw the flames near their homes.
3. The fire department was ________________ trying to get to all the calls.
4. The flames were extremely ________________.
5. The air smelled ________________.
6. After the fire, people felt ________________ with whoever had started it.
7. It was ________________ to see all the burned-out buildings.
8. Who could have been ________________ enough to set a whole city on fire?
9. The damage caused by the fire was _________________.
10. Luckily, owing to a great deal of effort, Chicago’s recovery was _________________.

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A. Writing Predicate Adjectives in Sentences

Use the word at the beginning of each item as a predicate adjective in a sentence.

**Example**

creative  *Artists are creative.*

1. careful
2. fancy
3. old
4. cheerful
5. gloomy
6. unexpected
7. great
8. full
9. crowded
10. ripe

B. Writing a Paragraph Using Predicate Adjectives

Suppose you had been in Chicago in 1871 when the Great Fire broke out. What might you have seen? How would you have felt? Write a short paragraph about your imagined experiences. Use at least four predicate adjectives in your description. Use a verb other than a form of *be* in at least two of the sentences. Underline the predicate adjectives in your paragraph.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

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Other Words Used as Adjectives

Some nouns and pronouns may work as adjectives. In other words, they may modify, or describe, nouns.

Pronouns as Adjectives

This, that, these, and those are demonstrative pronouns that can be used as adjectives. My, our, your, his, her, its, and their are possessive pronouns that can be used as adjectives. Indefinite pronouns such as all, each, both, few, most, and some can be used as adjectives.

Demonstrative pronoun  These statues are lifelike.
Possessive pronoun     The emperor is guarded by his soldiers.
Indefinite pronoun     Many stories were told about the strange army.

Nouns as Adjectives

Some nouns function as adjectives.

Noun  The tomb was filled with jade jewelry.

Identifying Nouns and Pronouns Used as Adjectives

Underline the nouns or pronouns that are used as adjectives in each sentence.

1. In ancient China, the powerful emperor Qin Shi Huangdi ordered that a clay army be made for him.
2. These soldiers would stand guard over his tomb.
3. Each soldier has a fierce expression on his face.
4. People have only recently found this incredible treasure.
5. In 1974, some peasants were digging a well.
6. Imagine their surprise when they uncovered many old statues.
7. The clay these 10,000 soldiers are made from is called terra cotta.
8. Also buried with the emperor was a terra cotta chariot.
9. This war chariot is life sized and impressive.
10. In case the emperor needed his possessions in the afterlife, he made sure some silk clothes were buried with him.
11. His subjects also buried gold necklaces and jade jewelry for him to use.
12. The soldiers were arranged in battle formation, ready to defend their emperor.
13. Real soldiers probably modeled for the faces of the clay figures.
14. This army is well armed; each soldier has a weapon—either a bow, a sword, a spear, or a crossbow.
15. If you were as rich and powerful as Qin Shi Huangdi, maybe you would make your tomb as grand as this one.
A. Identifying Adjectives and the Words They Modify
Underline the pronouns or nouns used as adjectives in the following sentences. Draw an arrow from the adjective to the word it modifies.

1. As a child Bob played with his toy army for hours.
2. At our house, we post important messages on the refrigerator door.
3. Put your dirty towels in the clothes hamper.
4. When you canoe, do you prefer wood paddles or plastic ones?
5. Those children built a snow fort in their yard.
6. Christy wants to put her feet in every clear mountain stream that we come upon.
7. Your paper airplane flies farther than my plywood airplane does.
8. The archaeologists found many clay pots in the tomb.
9. That cherry pie is for your school sale.
10. Most days, these wool pants feel too itchy for me to wear.

B. Writing Pronouns and Nouns Used Adjectives
Complete each sentence with a noun or pronoun that is used as an adjective. Write the adjective on the line.

1. The ___________________ statues are beautiful.
2. The king lived in a ___________________ castle.
3. His people lived in ___________________ huts.
4. He was an amazing ruler. Do you know ___________________ name?
5. I would like to have discovered ___________________ underground army.
6. ___________________ statues were built centuries ago.
7. ___________________ person who sees these statues is amazed by the artistry of their creators.
8. The ___________________ jewelry buried with the emperor is very valuable.
9. If ___________________ travels take you to China, you should visit this amazing place.
A. Writing Adjectives in Sentences

Use the word at the beginning of each item as an adjective in a sentence.

**EXAMPLE** stone  *A stone house will last for many years.*

1. this ____________________________________________

2. grass __________________________________________

3. antique __________________________________________

4. car ____________________________________________

5. every __________________________________________

6. silk ____________________________________________

7. many __________________________________________

8. paper __________________________________________

9. metal __________________________________________

10. our ____________________________________________

B. Writing a Paragraph Using Pronouns and Nouns as Adjectives

Use each of the following nouns and pronouns as adjectives to describe a visit to a museum with many ancient works of art. Write your paragraph on the lines below. Underline each of the listed words in your paragraph.

marble  their  that  every
stone  your  those  some
What Is an Adverb?

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Modifying a verb
Denise always shops at the mall.

Modifying an adjective
She is usually particular about what she buys.

Modifying an adverb
She comes to the mall very early.

Adverbs answer the questions how, when, where, or to what extent. **Intensifiers** are adverbs that modify adjectives or other adverbs. They usually come directly before the word they modify. Intensifiers usually answer the question To what extent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverbs</th>
<th>How?</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>To what extent?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjective</td>
<td>slowly, quickly, quietly</td>
<td>today, rarely, annually</td>
<td>nearby, there, around</td>
<td>rather, quite, extremely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverb</td>
<td>strongly</td>
<td>immediately</td>
<td>easily</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many adverbs are formed by adding the suffix -ly to adjectives. Sometimes a base word’s spelling changes when -ly is added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>strong</th>
<th>immediate</th>
<th>easy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adverb</td>
<td>strongly</td>
<td>immediately</td>
<td>easily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Identifying Adverbs

Underline all the adverbs in each sentence. If there are no adverbs in a sentence, write None on the line to the right.

1. There is a big sale at the mall today. __________
2. People who shop wisely can save a great deal of money. __________
3. Denise always goes to sales. __________
4. In the past, she has been very lucky with her buys. __________
5. She bought a rather expensive necklace very cheaply. __________
6. She feels happy when she finds a real deal. __________
7. For example, she bought a nearly new tent once at the outdoors store. __________
8. She will rather proudly show you the suitcase that she bought for next to nothing. __________
9. If you want to find a good deal, stay close to Denise. __________
10. She is amazingly skillful in both spending and saving money. __________
A. Identifying Adverbs and the Words They Modify
Underline the adverbs in the following sentences. Draw an arrow from each adverb to the word it modifies.

1. A load of salmon arrived on the docks yesterday.
2. The guard walked very cautiously into the building.
3. Our space probe landed softly on the moon today.
4. The lifeguard swam extremely fast.
5. Quickly, we gathered our gear.
6. The busy beaver gnawed quite furiously on the tree trunk.
7. I am well pleased with my new job.
8. That boy is rather talented; he’ll go far if he works hard.
9. The plumbers finally finished repairing the pipes today.
10. Quite suddenly, the horse bolted across the field.

B. Writing Adverbs
Complete each sentence with an adverb. Write the adverb on the line.

1. The shopping mall was ___________ busy the day Sean went shopping there.
2. ___________ all the stores were filled with customers.
3. Sean ___________ shops with a friend.
4. They ___________ stop at the ice-cream store in the center of the mall.
5. Sean and his friend were ___________ surprised to see that the ice-cream store was gone.
6. In its place was a ___________ new store.
7. They stepped ___________, and a clerk asked if she could help them.
8. They looked ___________ and saw computer games on all the shelves.
9. As dedicated game players, the boys were ___________ pleased with this new store.
10. On the other hand, where can they get a ___________ good ice-cream cone now?
What Is an Adverb?

A. Writing Adverbs in Sentences
Use the adverb at the beginning of each item in a sentence.

EXAMPLE late I came late for the movie.

1. carefully
2. slowly
3. quickly
4. very
5. completely
6. easily
7. gracefully
8. outside
9. close
10. gently

B. Writing a Paragraph Using Adverbs
Choose four of the following adverbs to use in a story about a shopping trip. Write the story on the lines below. Underline each of these adverbs and any other adverbs that you use in your story.

eagerly very suspiciously suddenly always
carelessly extremely mostly later never
Adjectives and adverbs may be used to compare people or things. Special forms of these words are used to make comparisons.

Use the **comparative** form of an adjective or adverb when you compare a person or thing with one other person or thing. Use the **superlative** form of an adjective or adverb when you compare someone or something with more than one other thing.

**Comparative**  
Seattle is **cloudier** than Phoenix.

**Superlative**  
Seattle is the **cloudiest** city in the United States.

For most **one-syllable** modifiers, add -er to form the comparative (small, smaller) and -est to form the superlative (old, oldest).

You can also add -er and -est to some **two-syllable** adjectives. With others, and with two-syllable adverbs, use the words more and most (more careful, most calmly).

To form the comparative or superlative form of most modifiers with **three syllables**, use the words more and most (more dangerous, most dangerous; more clumsily, most clumsily).

Be sure to use only one sign of comparison at a time (harder, not more harder).

The comparative and superlative forms of some adjectives and adverbs are formed in irregular ways: **good, better, best**; **bad, worse, worst**; **well, better, best**; **much, more, most**; **little, less, least**.

### Identifying Comparative and Superlative Modifiers

On the line, label the boldfaced modifier **C** for comparative, or **S** for superlative.

1. Which city has the **best** weather in the United States?  
2. That all depends on the kind of weather that appeals to you **most**.  
3. Some people are **happier** seeing sunny skies than they are seeing cloudy skies.  
4. They feel **more energetic** when the skies are blue than when they are gray.  
5. Some people think **more accurately** when they are not distracted by warm days.  
6. Maybe you would move to the **warmest** city in the United States.  
7. If you like to ski, you may like a cold climate **better**.  
8. Definitely, the **worst** weather is a bad storm such as a tornado or a hurricane.  
9. What is **most amazing** is that everybody has different likes and dislikes when it comes to weather.  
10. There is no one **finest** city that everyone can agree on.
A. Using Comparisons

Underline the correct form of comparison for each sentence.

1. This is the (rainier, rainiest) season of the year.
2. Usually, we get (more, most) rain in August than we do in October.
3. Unfortunately, this year has been the (drier, driest) year in a long time.
4. Farmers are suffering (most terribly, more terribly) than most other people.
5. Their crops are (shorter, shortest) than they usually are at this time of year.
6. Farmers depend (more completely, most completely) on the weather than the rest of us.
7. Even city dwellers would be (happier, happiest) if it would rain a little.
8. Their lawns are getting (browner, brownest) than they would like them to be.
9. The city pools are (busier, more busier) than they were last year.
10. The reservoir is at the (lower, lowest) level it’s been in decades.

B. Using Modifiers in Comparisons

After each sentence, write either the comparative or the superlative form of the word in parentheses, depending on what the sentence calls for.

1. The batter hit the ball (hard) than I could. ____________
2. Of all these sweaters, which one do you like (well)? ____________
3. My cold is (bad) today than it was yesterday. ____________
4. Of the two towels, this one feels (soft). ____________
5. Tortoises usually move (slow) than hares. ____________
6. Our team is the (good) of all the teams in the league. ____________
7. Your shoes look (new) than mine. ____________
8. Which member of the glee club can sing the (loud)? ____________
9. This puppy is the (small) of the litter. ____________
10. The archaeologist washed this artifact (carefully) than the last one. ____________
11. Everybody seemed (silent) than usual. ____________
12. Last, the (valuable) paintings in the show were offered for sale. ____________
A. Proofreading
Proofread the following paragraph. Look especially for comparison errors in adjectives and adverbs. If a sentence contains an error, rewrite it correctly on the line with the same number. If it is correct, write Correct on the line.

What places in the United States hold weather records? (1) Let’s start with the windier place of all, Mount Washington, New Hampshire. (2) Which of these cities has the rainiest August: Little Rock, Arkansas, or Baltimore, Maryland? (3) Little Rock does, by a long shot. (4) Which of these two cities deals most often with heavy snows, Boston, Massachusetts, or Rochester, New York? (5) Let’s just say that snow shovels last longest in Boston than they do in Rochester. (6) Which city has the higher temperature in the United States in January? (7) No U.S. city is more warmer than Honolulu, Hawaii, in January.

1. ______________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________________________
6. ______________________________________________________________________
7. ______________________________________________________________________

B. Using Comparisons in Writing
Suppose you went to the South Pole with a group of scientists. You would be up against some of the most challenging weather conditions you can imagine. Write a journal entry from a particularly interesting day at the South Pole. You may talk about the weather or about the sights you are seeing. Choose four of the words in the list below, and use their comparative and/or superlative forms in a paragraph for your journal. Underline the words you use.
cold blustery white
hot windy freezing
warmly fast slowly
welcome frightening sunny
brightly good bad
Some pairs of adjectives and adverbs are often a source of confusion and mistakes.

**Good or Well**

*Good* is always an adjective; it modifies a noun or pronoun. *Well* is usually an adverb; it modifies a verb, adverb, or adjective. *Well* is an adjective when it refers to your health.

- **Adjective** Today is a *good* day for a ball game.
- **Adverb** Does the pitcher feel *well* enough to play?

**Real or Really**

*Real* is always an adjective: it modifies a noun or pronoun. *Really* is always an adverb; it modifies a verb, adverb, or adjective.

- **Adjective** Seeing the game is a *real* treat.
- **Adverb** I feel *really* lucky.

**Bad or Badly**

*Bad* is always an adjective: it modifies a noun or pronoun. *Badly* is always an adverb; it modifies a verb, adverb, or adjective.

- **Adjective** That was a *bad* call.
- **Adverb** He pitched *badly* last inning.

**Using the Correct Adjective or Adverb**

Underline the correct modifier from those given in parentheses.

1. This seats are (good, well), aren’t they?
2. There seems to be a (real, really) big crowd at this game.
3. Our team has been playing (good, well) so far this year.
4. We have been (real, really) fortunate that all the players have stayed healthy.
5. For example, this pitcher could have been injured (bad, badly) when the ball came back toward him.
6. I’m glad he raised his glove (real, really) quickly and caught the ball.
7. I think we may have a (good, well) chance at the division championship this year.
8. We may be (real, really) contenders for the pennant.
9. Here comes a (good, well) hitter up to the plate.
10. Wow! He hit that ball (good, well)!
11. He can hit a (real, really) long ball, can’t he?
12. I’ll bet it feels (good, well) to run around those bases.
13. I feel (bad, badly) that Luis couldn’t join us because of a (bad, badly) case of summer flu.
14. Maybe when he feels (good, well) again, he’ll see a game with us.
**Adjective or Adverb?**

**A. Using the Correct Modifier**
Underline the correct word in parentheses in each sentence. Label each word you choose as **ADJ** for adjective or **ADV** for adverb.

1. Denise writes (good, well) enough to be published. __________
2. At the Japanese restaurant, the shrimp tempura tastes (good, well). __________
3. Rosa played the part of Lady Macbeth (real, really) well. __________
4. The driver who caused the accident feels very (bad, badly) about it. __________
5. Dolores did quite (good, well) on her final exams. __________
6. If Jason rides his bike that (bad, badly) all the time, he may hurt himself. __________
7. After a week the milk turned (bad, badly) in the refrigerator. __________
8. By now it must smell pretty (bad, badly). __________

**B. Writing with Adjectives and Adverbs**
Decide if adjectives and adverbs are used correctly in the following sentences. If you find an error, rewrite the sentence on the line. If the sentence is correct, write **Correct** on the line.

1. That player looks good at the plate, but can he field good, too? ____________________________________________________________________________________________
2. Our team has a real need for a good catcher. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
3. The centerfielder is doing real good now. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
4. He is so good at judging where a real well-hit ball will land. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
5. The pitcher really wants to hit the ball good and feels badly when he strikes out. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
6. He should feel badly only when he serves up pitches that are real easy to hit. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
A. Writing Sentences Using Adjectives and Adverbs Correctly

Write sentences using the adjectives and adverbs given.

1. good (adjective) ________________________________________________________________

2. well (adverb) __________________________________________________________________

3. well (adjective) __________________________________________________________________

4. bad ____________________________________________________________________________

5. badly __________________________________________________________________________

6. real ____________________________________________________________________________

7. really __________________________________________________________________________

B. Using Adjectives and Adverbs Correctly

Read the conversation below. It contains several errors in the use of good, well, real, really, bad, and badly. Underline any errors you find. Then rewrite the conversation correctly on the lines below or on a separate piece of paper.

“I feel real good today, don’t you?” asked Gina. “It’s been a long time since I’ve seen a real baseball game.”

Gary replied, “I feel great, too. This is my first baseball game in a really long time. And how many times can you see a team that’s playing this good? The only thing I feel badly about is that Sean couldn’t be with us.”

“I called his mother yesterday, and he is doing pretty good, I guess. Maybe his recovery will be real fast, and he’ll be as good as new in a few weeks.”

“There’s the opening pitch. Their batter has a real bad reputation for annoying pitchers who are throwing good. Let’s see if his performance is as bad as his reputation.”

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
Avoiding Double Negatives

A **negative word** is a word that implies that something does not exist or happen.

**Common Negative Words**

- barely
- never
- none
- nothing
- can’t
- hardly
- no
- no one
- nowhere
- don’t
- neither
- nobody
- not
- scarcely
- hasn’t

If two negative words are used where only one is needed, the result is a **double negative**. Avoid double negatives in your speaking and writing.

- **Nonstandard** I haven’t never tasted artichokes.
- **Standard** I haven’t ever tasted artichokes. OR I have never tasted artichokes.

### A. Recognizing the Correct Use of Negatives

Circle the letter of the sentence from each pair that uses negatives correctly.

1. a. We didn’t have no fresh milk in the house.
   
   b. We didn’t have any fresh milk in the house.

2. a. We didn’t have any idea where the pasta was stored.
   
   b. We didn’t have no idea where the pasta was stored.

3. a. I can’t hardly boil water without burning it.
   
   b. I can hardly boil water without burning it.

4. a. No one knew anything about making any meals except sandwiches.
   
   b. No one knew nothing about making any meals except sandwiches.

### B. Avoiding Double Negatives

Underline the word in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

1. There wasn’t (nothing, anything) ready for the evening meal when my brother and I came home yesterday.

2. My mom (hadn’t, had) hardly walked in the door before we started asking what was for dinner.

3. Neither of us had (ever, never) done any cooking before.

4. Mom said, “You aren’t (never, ever) going to learn to cook if you don’t start sometime. How about now?”

5. “You can’t find this recipe (anywhere, nowhere) in that cookbook,” she said.

6. In scarcely (no, any) time, she had assembled the needed ingredients.

7. “No one (should, shouldn’t) feel helpless in the kitchen,” she said, as she told us what to do.

8. No one could have given us (no, any) better gift than that cooking lesson.
Avoiding Double Negatives

A. Using the Correct Modifier

Underline the correct word in parentheses in each sentence.

1. Haven’t you (never, ever) eaten rattlesnake tail?
2. It’s a delicacy that hardly (anybody, nobody) I know has enjoyed lately.
3. But that dish isn’t (anywhere, nowhere) near as strange as the foods some people eat.
4. I’ll bet you haven’t tried (neither, either) rats or skunks for dinner.
5. Most people wouldn’t eat (no, any) insects, at least knowingly.
6. Don’t be sure there aren’t (any, no) insect parts in your food though; some are allowed in hot dogs.
7. I (can’t, can) hardly imagine eating bird’s nest soup, made from the saliva of little birds called swifts.
8. I haven’t (never, ever) eaten fish for breakfast, as people in Japan do.
9. I don’t care how hungry I am. Nobody (couldn’t, could) make me eat beetles.

B. Avoiding Double Negatives

Rewrite each sentence to avoid double negatives.

1. We couldn’t find nobody to care for our cat while we were on vacation.

2. Our dog doesn’t eat no food unless someone keeps it company.

3. The driver couldn’t scarcely see the road through the heavy rain.

4. I haven’t seen neither of your neighbors today.

5. Why can’t I never get past this level in the computer game?

6. The librarian can’t find nothing about my topic in his reference books.
A. Avoiding Double Negatives
Choose one of these words to complete each sentence below. Be sure to avoid double negatives. Cross out each word after you use it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>no</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>anyone</th>
<th>anybody</th>
<th>ever</th>
<th>neither</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hardly</td>
<td>no one</td>
<td>barely</td>
<td>hasn’t</td>
<td>anything</td>
<td>nothing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. I heard the doorbell, but I can’t see _______________ at the door.

2. I haven’t _______________ been to that restaurant. Have you?

3. Nancy could _______________ hear the caller’s voice on the phone.

4. Mark has seen the movie twice, but I have _______________ seen it.

5. If you don’t have _______________ nice to say, say nothing at all.

6. Hasn’t _______________ ever told you that you shouldn’t talk with your mouth full?

B. Revising a Paragraph with Double Negatives
The following paragraph contains several double negatives. Read each sentence and decide if it has a double negative. If it does, rewrite it correctly on the corresponding line below. If it is correct, write Correct on the corresponding line.

   (1) Eating hasn’t never inspired me to be adventurous. (2) I would rather have a plain old pizza than almost any weird food. (3) However, I know I’m missing out on some exciting food experiences. (4) For example, I can’t hardly think of eating the fish eyes that Native Americans in Alaska eat. (5) Nobody won’t ever see me eating shark or jellyfish casserole. (6) Don’t never expect me to eat a sheep’s stomach. (7) (If you are ever in Scotland, you might see sheep’s stomach on the menu as haggis. (8) And please don’t let nobody slip some prickly pear cactus fruit into my salad! (9) I won’t eat nothing strange, and that’s final.

1. __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________________________

7. __________________________________________________________________________

8. __________________________________________________________________________

9. __________________________________________________________________________